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NEWS OF THE WAR: A LONDON STREET SCENE.

BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY.

THE war fever, we fear, is a little infectious. It is raging with great virulence on the Continent just now; and even we Englishmen, "phlegmatic islanders" though we be, are getting somewhat excited. An Irishman, it is said, becomes mad at the sight of blood; and it would seem that some among us Britons cannot see a bout at fisticuffs in progress without experiencing an itching inclination to join in the fray, even though it be only in the capacity of peacemakers. At least, that is the delusion under which we generally labour when we meddle in other people's affairs militantly. We are always, of course, actuated by the very best intentions; but, unfortunately, we are not invariably quite judicious or discreet in the time and mode of our interference, and are consequently apt to do evil rather than good. The "honour of England" is no doubt a sacred thing, which, having been a little tampered with of late by the concoctors of secret treaties, ought to be vindicated; but, as there are "more ways of killing a dog than hanging him," we submit that there are other means of vindicating the honour of England than by blustering talk in Parliament or elsewhere.

Hence we cannot sympathise with the persistence with which demands have been made within the last few days, by a certain portion of the press and by certain irresponsible members of Parliament, for declarations of the course Ministers intend to follow in existing circumstances and of the action they mean to take in contingencies that have not yet arisen. It is quite natural that we should all feel interested in the events now occurring on the Continent; and it is equally natural, perhaps, that some indignation and a good deal of distrust should have been caused by recent revelations. This, too, is a land of free speech; and there is no particular reason why anyone among us, except the Ministers of the Crown, should be reticent as to passing events, or whisper his opinions on contemporary action with bated breath—provided, always, that free speech does not degenerate into offensive bullying bluster. Indeed, there are good reasons why the opinions of the British people should receive frank expression; they may have a salutary influence. But there are also, obviously, many good reasons why the responsible Ministers of the Crown cannot make themselves the organs of that expression. In the press, from the platform, and even on the floor of Parliament, and from the lips of independent members, such expression, with the qualifications we have already indicated, is legitimate enough. But Ministers are less free than other men; they must weigh their words; they must say nothing that will wound the susceptibilities of neighbouring nations and their rulers; they must insinuate opinions rather than give them voice; they must carefully eschew rhodomontade and avoid making "superfluous declarations." The "Touch not Saguntum" style is unbecoming in them, for by its use they would be certain to frustrate the very objects they are labouring to attain. Hence the reticence of Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville, of which so much complaint has been made within the last few days—a wise reticence, as it seems to us.

It has been argued that a decided expression of the mind of England, made through her responsible Ministers, would have a marked effect in checking ambitious projects abroad. That declaration, we have no doubt, has been duly made through the proper channels and to the proper parties, and will be much more effective than any outburst of bellicose talk in Parliament. Diplomatic remonstrances to rulers may stop projects of encroachment; whereas defiance to peoples only provoke exasperation and resentment. Indeed, the present war is itself an illustration of the danger of such public utterances. Had the Duc de Gramont confined his action to inquiry and remonstrance when the Hohenzollern project first became known, instead of running to the Chambers and using big, threatening words, Prussia might easily have made concessions which that hectoring style rendered impossible. We must prefer, therefore, the caution and reticence of Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone to the "tall talk" of the Duc de Gramont and the unnecessary anxiety for declarations evinced by some members of Parliament and by a section of the daily press. Ministers were not the less alive to the duty of England in regard to Belgium, Holland, and Luxemburg because they were sparing of speech there; nor were they less sensible of their responsibilities as the directors of British policy in a ticklish time and under delicate circumstances. They preferred to translate their opinions into action; and their demand for 20,000 more soldiers and an extra £2,000,000 sterling for warlike purposes, sufficiently indicated that they fully appreciated the gravity of the situation; and ought to have obviated further questioning, because, we think, it made further questioning unnecessary. We are of opinion, therefore, that the pressure put upon Ministers was uncalled for, and indicated a slight access of the war fever, which we hope will abate since Lord Granville has made it plain that England's honour is safe in his hands. All the world now knows that Great Britain means to be faithful to her treaty engagements; that such intention has been notified to all whom it may concern; that she is prepared for any contingencies which may arise; and that she is content to make whatever sacrifices events may force upon her; but that, neither by word nor deed, are her Ministers disposed to give unnecessary offence, or to provoke a collision with other Powers. Forewarned is forearmed. We are both, and may therefore contain our souls in patience.

To one or two other matters it is worth while advert

for a moment. All the speakers, from Mr. Disraeli downwards, who have taken part in the Parliamentary debates to which this unhappy war has given rise, profess an anxiety to strengthen the hands of the Government; and yet several members, Mr. Disraeli included, have shown a tendency to make political capital out of existing complications—to wrest events to party purposes. This is much to be deplored, because such a course, besides being unworthy of statesmen on a great occasion, may have the pernicious effect of inducing other nations to suppose that we are divided among ourselves. Whatever differences of opinion we may have in *re* France and Germany, let us show that we are thoroughly united in *re* Great Britain and the doers of wrong, whoever or wherever they may be. A party advantage, if attained, would be a poor reward for British prestige injured and the sincerity of British love of right and justice brought into question. We do not deprecate criticism of Ministerial policy and administrative action; all we ask is that that criticism shall be fair, and not factious.

Our people, too, as well as our legislators, have duties to perform, and may be called on to practise self-denial as well as to make sacrifices. And the first of these duties is to obey the law by observing as individuals the strict and impartial neutrality that is incumbent upon us as a nation. Temptation will no doubt be placed in the way of many among us; but these must be resisted, and personal advantages and pecuniary gains be foregone, if need be, for the sake of the public weal. No one is bound to do more than international and municipal law require; but no one ought to feel at liberty to violate law for the sake of individual gain. There is no reason, in the nature of things, why neutral nations should sacrifice themselves for the benefit or at the bidding of belligerents; nor does international law require them to do so. We, as neutrals, are entitled to follow our usual avocations, to practise our ordinary industries, and to prosecute our accustomed commercial enterprises, irrespective of the wishes or interests of either party to this war; but we must beware of engaging in new and unlawful traffic merely because it is profitable. That which is lawful, let us do boldly; but let no unholy lust of personal gain tempt any one among us to engage in illegal deeds, or to compromise national honour, national safety, or national interests.

NEWS OF THE WAR!

THE Engraving on the preceding page represents a scene which may be witnessed any day at various central points of London. The long delay that has occurred in the commencement of actual hostilities has whetted public curiosity to the utmost, and when the newsboys make their appearance in the streets with the morning or evening papers quite a rush takes place upon them, and they are barely able to deal out their wares fast enough to meet the demand. On Tuesday and Wednesday this was conspicuously the case. The placards announced fighting at Saarbrück, and a victory for the French. Everybody wanted to know details, and, though these were meagre enough, the papers were rapidly bought up, and the newsboys drove a roaring trade. This excitement and curiosity is likely to continue as long as the war, and it is pretty sure to have more important events both to induce and to gratify it than any that have yet occurred. Whoever suffers by the war, it is clear the newsboys of London will be considerable gainers.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.—The revised estimates contain the following votes:—For the National Gallery enlargement, purchase of site, £20,000; works, £24,000. The original estimate for the acquisition of land was £128,000, but £207,000 has already been voted, and £20,000 more is required. With respect to the work of clearing the site and the erection of new buildings the estimate is £92,975. A vote of £150 is to be proposed for the Irish Academy of Music. For the new courts of justice £2000 is to be asked for the purchase of property, in addition to the £1,879,000 already voted. £16,000 is to be asked towards the erection of the building, as to which there is a statutory limit of £750,000.

AN OUTCAST.—The only comic element in the war is the hapless Monsieur (or Herr) Wittersheim, who appears to sustain in that great tragedy a part somewhat similar to that of the Gravedigger in "Hamlet," the Porter in "Macbeth," or the Fool in "King Lear." He relieves the grim horror of the situation with a touch of burlesque. The French newspapers make much of him. He is their solitary material for a joke. Monsieur Wittersheim is the printer and publisher of the *Official Journal* of the Empire; Herr Wittersheim is a Prussian by birth and allegiance. Herr Wittersheim has withdrawn from Paris, and taken up his residence in a country house on the banks of the Spree, and not far from Berlin. Monsieur Wittersheim has been conducted from his retreat to the French frontier by two Prussian policemen. Herr Wittersheim has been stopped by the Imperial authorities. Napoleon III. will have nothing to do with the Prussian subject; William I. cannot tolerate the French official journalist. Poor Wittersheim! How is the difficulty to be solved? He cannot restrict himself to the inevitable line which separates the two countries; for though a line, as mathematicians define it, is length without breadth, M. Wittersheim is, of course, endowed with the properties of extension in three dimensions. He may feel at each point, but he cannot, like Pope's spider, live along the line. The wisdom of Solomon suggests an expedient for separating the German from the Frenchman in M. Wittersheim, which is too cruel to be thought of. Only one other course remains. It is, to apply to the man the policy which has been adopted in the case of some countries. Let Monsieur (or Herr) Wittersheim be neutralised, like Belgium and Switzerland, with the assurance on the part of the belligerents that his neutrality will be respected, so long as he is able to defend it. Of course, M. Wittersheim would have to arm himself for this purpose, as Belgium and Switzerland are doing. A needle-gun under one arm and a chapeau on the other would sufficiently protect his French and Prussian frontiers.—*Daily News.*

THE WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOLS.—The following statistics respecting these schools were supplied to the Wesleyan Conference sitting at Burslem:—The number of day schools is 746, an increase of 48; scholars, 128,809, an increase of 9739; average attendance, 83,662, an increase of 7769. The Government reports, as furnished from 302 departments, show that for every 100 children in average attendance above six years of age there are 20 under six; for every 100 above six there are 107 86 qualified for presentation. Of the average attendance above six years 91 79 per cent are actually presented, 60 1 pass in standards 1-3, and 29 07 in standards 4-7; 83 86 pass in reading, 83 89 in writing, and 72 69 in arithmetic. Less than 2 per cent of the whole are returned as ineligible for grant Article 4—i.e., as children of parents who could afford to pay fully the cost of education. The average grant per child in average attendance obtained in the 302 departments is 10s. 7 1/2. The percentages of passes calculated upon the number of children presented for examination are, in standards 1-3, 65 47; in standards 4-7, 21 86; in reading, 91 35; in writing, 91 46; and in arithmetic, 79 19. For inspected schools in England and Wales the general averages are—reading, 89 97; writing, 88 24; arithmetic, 77 24. The amount of Government annual grants to Wesleyan schools in 1869 was £36,191 3s. 6d., being an increase on the previous year of £3582 16s. 11d. The amount of building grants was £50. The number of certificated teachers employed in Wesleyan schools on Dec. 31, 1869, was 617; of assistant teachers, 57; and of pupil teachers, 1085—being an increase for the year of 186. Fifty students of the normal training college of the second year and four of the first year were appointed to schools at Christmas last. Seventy-five candidates were admitted, making the number in residence 144. The number of Sunday schools is 5443—increased, 115; teachers and officers, 105,592—increased, 2151; ditto, in church membership or on trial for it, 78,574—increased, 1524; scholars, 622,589—increased, 20,788; ditto, in church membership or on trial for it, 38,144—increased, 1772; young persons in Bible classes, by ministers or others, 13,434.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

M. Ollivier has had an interview with the representatives of the principal Paris papers, and has expressed a hope that it will not be necessary to have recourse to vigorous measures to enforce the new press law. The Government did not intend to forbid accounts being published of events which had already occurred. With regard to the admission of newspaper correspondents to headquarters, M. Ollivier said the matter rested with the Emperor and Marshal Leboeuf, who had not hitherto been in favour of granting permission.

The *locum tenens* of Marshal Leboeuf at the Ministry of War is General Dejean. It is a rather curious coincidence that this officer's father held the same post in the time of the First Napoleon. Berthier, then Minister of War, was, like Leboeuf, also Major-General of the army, and in his absence General Dejean was charged with the administration of the military department of the Government.

The Duc de Cadore has been dispatched on a mission to Denmark and Sweden; and, supported by the French fleet, is said to be meeting with great promise of success. His object, of course, is to induce the Northern Powers to take part with France. Sweden, it is believed, remains unmoved; but it is certain that great excitement and a strong war feeling prevail in Denmark.

A correspondent, writing from Paris on Tuesday, says that "the enthusiasm for the war has entirely disappeared. It is now evident that a war with Germany means a prolonged struggle against one million armed combatants determined to defend their own country and, if possible, to give the French such a lesson that hereafter the Emperor's peculiar mode of making his reign an era of peace by attacking his neighbours will be rendered impossible. The announcement that the fortifications of Paris are to be placed in a condition of defence, and the Emperor's admission that the war will be a long one, have singularly damped the ardour of those who imagined that within a fortnight a glorious peace, which would re-establish the supremacy of French arms, was to be signed in Berlin. We are still told that the Germans are trembling at the idea of encountering the mitrailleuses and the Turcos; but the legend has lost its effect. Indeed, lately the wonders of a new engine of war have been celebrated, in order to revive the drooping spirits of the credulous bourgeoisie. What the mitrailleuse is to the Prussian artillery, say the newspapers, the 'bombarde' is to the mitrailleuse. No further description is given of this terrible arm; but we are told that it will render any idea of resistance against an army provided with it simply ludicrous."

Dr. Nelaton has gone to the army, and, as it is given out, to "organise the ambulance." Of course, nobody believes this reason—and indeed it is incredible. This eminent surgeon, now an elderly man, has the reputation of being the first operator in the world; but there is no presumption whatever that he has any greater capacity for the special duty now said to be imposed upon him than hundreds of younger men and of more military experience. A correspondent says:—"I cannot avoid the conclusion that the Emperor—whose chronic state of health everybody knows is such as to make it supremely ridiculous for him to affect to put himself at the 'head' of a great army in the field—feels already the want of his favourite and skilful surgeon, and that a shallow subterfuge has been imagined to conceal from the public the true cause for Dr. Nelaton's departure from Paris. It is hinted in one of the papers that, notwithstanding the Empress's Regency, the Emperor means to come to Paris 'frequently' during the continuance of the war. I dare say, under Dr. Nelaton's advice, he will very soon be here."

BELGIUM.

Disturbances of a somewhat serious character, arising out of the elections, are reported from Brussels and Ghent. In the latter city several convents were wrecked. Troops had arrived and order had been re-established.

Owing to the war the manufactories of Ghent have for the most part been closed, and destitution prevails among the working men. The National Bank is again going to issue circulars to its agents ordering them to restrict discount operations to what is absolutely necessary for the payment of the working classes.

ITALY.

In the Chamber, on Sunday, Signor Laporta urged that, as the September Convention had been violated by France, it should be abrogated by the Italian Government. The Prime Minister, in reply, maintained that the adoption of such a course would prevent the evacuation of Rome, and that it would be unworthy to embarrass France just as she was going to war. Signor Lanza added that the Government did not fear internal disturbances, and would repress them, no matter by whom fomented. These explanations were accepted, and the Chamber voted the order of the day.

The Prussian Minister at Florence, Count Brassier de St. Simon, who has just returned to Berlin to report to his Government on the state of matters here, addressed before his departure an official communication to the various Florence journals, to the effect that it was impossible to accept the numerous offers of Italian volunteers to join the Prussian ranks. His Government, he said, had instructed him to return thanks for these offers, which, however, owing to the superabundance of men for the Prussian army, and to the remoteness of Italy from the seat of operations, could not be accepted, the Prussian Government having made it a rule to refuse all offers from foreigners desirous of taking service in its ranks.

ROME.

The evacuation of Rome by the French troops has begun. Three companies of a battalion of chasseurs arrived at Marselles last Saturday, and it is stated that the remainder of the troops are expected in successive detachments. General Dumont has received orders to concentrate the troops at Civita Vecchia, so as to be ready for embarkation at the first signal. On Monday three more companies of chasseurs left Civita Vecchia. It is stated in a Florence telegram that the Italian Government is concentrating troops on the Papal frontier.

SPAIN.

It is asserted that Dom Fernando of Portugal has accepted the Spanish Crown.

PORTUGAL.

A Royal decree has been published declaring the neutrality of Portugal in the war between France and Prussia. The Marquis Anjeza has left the Ministry. Manifestations against Marshal Saldanda have been made by the merchants of Lisbon and Oporto.

The crops have suffered from the heat and drought.

PRUSSIA.

The special correspondent of the *Times* at Berlin writes:—Lord Augustus Loftus has received an official communication from Baron Thile to the effect that the King's Government has resolved not to permit any foreign correspondents to go with the armies into the field, considering the danger which may arise from the transmission of news relating to military operations. This answer has been communicated to those interested, and of course Lord A. Loftus cannot interfere with the discretion of Ministers in such a question. Exceptions may be made on special or personal grounds, but they are within the powers of the Prussian Government, without any control from outside or any responsibility to others; and the King and his Ministers can of course determine whom they will and whom they will not exclude.

General Prittwitz, the oldest military engineer, who quitted service long ago on his own application, has been intrusted with the command of the fortress of Ulm. General Prittwitz is the exact German counterpart of the late General Thompson, perhaps

without ever having heard of him. He was the author, more than thirty years ago, of dashing free-trade pamphlets, almost in the style of the Corn-Law Catechism. As a politician he was always exactly what was formerly called in England a philosophical Radical. The most elegant and profound production of his pen is a work "On the Limits of Civilisation," which combines the thoughts of a bold economist with extensive technical knowledge. Only a few years ago he reappeared in the literary arena with works on the rights and the position of women.

A sad event is reported from Breslau. It appears that three companies of the 10th Regiment were returning from the exercising ground in the Bürgerwerder, and whilst crossing the Oder in the ferry-boat, another barge full of soldiers ran against it with great force, precipitating the men into the river where the current was running with great violence. The men in the ferry-boat, in endeavouring to save their comrades, rushed to one side, by which it was capsized, and in a moment the whole of the 500 soldiers were immersed and seen struggling for their existence. Though they were all good swimmers, they were so impeded by their arms and accoutrements—being in heavy marching order—and so confined by want of space for free action, that a great many of them sunk to rise no more. Fortunately, the crew of a timber-barge lying near the spot, with great presence of mind, launched a number of spars and boards, which many of the soldiers were able to grasp, and, though carried down a long way by the current, they ultimately effected a landing. More than twenty of the men were dragged out of the water in a senseless condition; but, as many of the army surgeons had hastened down to the scene of the accident, they were all restored to life with the exception of three. The swimming master of the regiment was occupied for a long time afterwards in diving and bringing up a number of muskets, helmets, knapsacks, and other military paraphernalia.

AUSTRIA.

It is announced in the official journal of Vienna that in consequence of the promulgation of the dogma of infallibility the Austrian Government has resolved to abrogate the Concordat with Rome. In an autograph letter the Emperor of Austria has directed the necessary bills to be drawn up for that purpose and laid before the Reichsrath.

Another decree of the Austrian Government orders the dissolution of the Bohemian Diet, and fresh elections immediately. The Diet is to reassemble on Aug. 27, the Trieste Diet on Sept. 2, the other Diets on Aug. 20, and the Reichsrath itself on Sept. 5.

An agent of the Austrian Government has, it is said, been sent to Florence to agree with the Italian Government upon a common policy towards the belligerents to be followed by Austria and Italy.

The Vienna *Presse* of Tuesday evening, in a leading article upon the attitude to be taken by Austria with regard to the war, shows that the policy of the Austrian Government since 1866 is one of self-interest, while a part of the population of the empire has adopted a policy of sentiment. Since the battle of Sadowa the policy of interest, as understood by France, has led that Power towards an alliance with Austria, while Prussia, with her tendencies to unite Germany under the Hohenzollern dynasty, endeavours entirely to crush Austria's power. The triumph of Prussia in the present war would be the destruction of Austria, while the victory of France would establish a French preponderance against which Austria would move only should Germany be menaced. Austria's duty is to form a neutral league to establish a European equilibrium, which, in certain eventualities, would have to be brought about by force.

THE UNITED STATES.

President Grant has communicated to the Senate the substance of the correspondence which has passed between the British and American Governments relative to the Alabama claims. Lord Clarendon, in a letter to Mr. Motley, dated May 21, said her Majesty's Government believed that for the settlement of the question at issue it was neither useful nor expedient to continue a controversial correspondence in which there was so little hope of one Government convincing the other.

In the United States Court at Windsor, Vermont, last Saturday, sentence was pronounced upon the Fenian invaders of Canada. General O'Neil was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of 100 dols.; Colonel John T. Brown to nine months' imprisonment and a fine of 5 dols.; Captain J. J. Monahan, to six months' imprisonment and a fine of 1 dol. All had pleaded guilty.

Governor Holden, of North Carolina, having proclaimed martial law in several counties, has organised a force of negro militia for the alleged purpose of bringing to justice the perpetrators of the Ku-Klux outrages. Colonel Kirk, who commands the militia, is committing great excesses, arresting a large number of respectable citizens, ordering courts-martial to be held for their trial, refusing to recognise the writs of the Civil Courts, and administering torture in order to extort confessions. Great excitement prevails, but the citizens have not as yet offered any forcible resistance to the militia. Several companies of Federal cavalry have been sent to North Carolina from Washington to sustain Governor Holden. The press generally strongly condemn the course pursued by Governor Holden, and censure the Administration for supporting him.

The steam-boat *Silver Spray*, from New Orleans for Cincinnati, exploded her boilers on the Mississippi river, near Memphis, at midnight on Sunday, and then caught fire. Twenty-six persons were drowned or burnt to death.

HER MAJESTY'S MINISTERS AT THE MANSION HOUSE.—Her Majesty's Ministers and a distinguished company were entertained, last Saturday evening, by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House. Mr. Cardwell responded for the Army, the Navy, and the Reserve; Mr. Gladstone acknowledged the toast of the evening, the Lord Chancellor replied on behalf of the House of Peers, Mr. Bruce returned thanks for the House of Commons, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed the health of "The Ladies." The Premier, in earnestly pointing out that the duty of this country, difficult though it might be, was to preserve a strict neutrality, looked forward to the time when the friendly offices of non-combatants might be employed to stop the deadly carnage which threatens to despoil the Continent.

WAGES MOVEMENT AT PRESTON.—In Preston the manufacturers have, almost without exception, granted an advance of 5 per cent. and in some instances the whole amount deducted from wages last year has been returned. But the spinners bitterly complain of the utter disregard of their claims by the employers, as they state that a greater reduction—from 10 to 16 per cent.—was last year made in their wages than in any other town in Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, or Yorkshire. The masters have not yet granted an interview to the representatives of the operative spinners, who, as secretary, Mr. Banks, issued another memorial to the employers, on Friday evening week, in which document it is stated that seven out of about fifty firms in Preston (including Messrs. Horrocks, Miller, and Co.) have restored the amount taken off last year, varying from 5 to 10 per cent.; while the remainder, who took off from 10 to 16 per cent., are offering an advance of only 5 per cent. On Thursday, at a meeting of the Bolton operative spinners, it was resolved that, in consequence of the effects of the Franco-Prussian war upon trade, the agitation for an advance of wages be adjourned sine die.

THE LATE SIR R. HARVEY.—The Stock Exchange claims against the private estate of the late Sir R. Harvey have increased from £51,000, at which total they stood on the day of his death, to upwards of £200,000 at the present time. The unfortunate deceased seems to have engaged in speculative transactions to a much greater extent than had been supposed, and at least one firm with which he was not known to have any business relations have sent in a considerable claim. The private estate of Sir Robert has been estimated at £200,000, but should the Courts admit the Stock Exchange claims it is feared that the whole of this sum will be engulphed. In this case the dividend paid to the creditors of the Crown Bank will be diminished to the extent of 2s. 6d. in the pound, but even then it will be 12s. or 13s. in the pound. A bill in Chancery has been filed with a view to the administration of the private estate of Sir Robert by that high tribunal. Lady Henrietta Harvey, the widow of the deceased, has signed a deed renouncing in favour of the creditors of the Crown Bank her interest in her late husband's private estate. Sir Robert had bequeathed her Ladyship an annuity of £2,000 per annum, but this she abandoned. Her Ladyship retained her marriage settlement of £500, and may possibly also benefit from life assurance policies to the extent of £500,000 more.

THE WAR.

CONFLICT AT SAARBRUCK.

The "first victory" in the war between France and Prussia is claimed by the former Power. In an attack made last Saturday they had been repulsed; but at eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning the French troops advanced upon Saarbrück, and two hours afterwards—that is to say, by one o'clock in the day—were masters of the place. They had eleven killed, including one officer. According to the official French accounts the division of General Frossard was alone engaged in this encounter, and was opposed by three Prussian divisions. According to the official German account it would seem that there was only one battalion of Prussian troops in the town, and that they retreated fighting. The French report states that the mitrailleuse produced an extraordinary effect, and that the artillery officers are enthusiastic in its praise. A Prussian detachment, at a distance of 1600 metres (about a mile), is said to have been dispersed, leaving half its number on the ground. A second detachment, it is declared, shared the same fate.

The Emperor Napoleon and the Prince Imperial were both present at the engagement. His Majesty, in a telegram to the Empress Eugénie, says that the young Prince displayed so much coolness that some of the soldiers shed tears. The lad picked up and kept a bullet that fell close to him.

With the bombardment and probable destruction of Saarbrück, the French campaign may be considered as fairly commenced. Ten days ago the French, who were already on their frontier at Forbach and Sarreguemines, at about six and twelve miles respectively from Saarbrück, might easily have gained possession of the place without firing a shot. Saarbrück is an open town, commanded by a range of hills on the west and south, and its defence entered so little into the plans of Prussian strategists that it had at first hardly any garrison at all; and even when a few companies were sent there and some earthworks hastily thrown up, the place possessed neither a commanding officer of high rank nor a single piece of artillery. Saarbrück lies on the left bank of the Saar, and communicates with its suburb or twin town of St. Johann by two bridges about 500 German feet in length. The Saar railway and its station are on the right bank. The town is situated in the centre of a manufacturing district, with a population of 6621 inhabitants, or, including St. Johann, of 13,121. For several days the French from Forbach and from Sarreguemines, under Generals Frossard and De Failly, had been occupying the surrounding hills, unimpeded by the Prussians, and rearing their batteries, under cover of the woods, on the plateau at Spieren, on the right of the road from Forbach, and advancing with heavy columns upon St. Arnould on the right and Gersweiler on the left of the central plateau. From this height the range of the French cannon had been tried at 1800 metres' distance with perfect success. Everything being thus ready, the Emperor and his son rode over from Metz and witnessed what appears to have been a fearful cannonade. The result was that the Prussians were dislodged, first from their parade-ground outside the town, then from the town itself, which was soon "in flames," and, if the reports are not exaggerated, was before evening reduced to a "heap of ashes." According to the French accounts, the heights in the environs of the place had to be carried by hard fighting, and the formidable mitrailleuse played a principal part in the conflict, demolishing one after another two Prussian detachments at 1600 metres' distance, with such terrible effect that one half the men lay writhing on the ground and the other half were dispersed. All this execution was accomplished by one French division under General Frossard, which was alone engaged against three Prussian divisions. The German statement is that they had only one battalion in the place, and that it was under orders to retreat fighting. The attack, according to their despatches, was made by three French divisions, with twenty-three pieces of artillery.

THE FRENCH.

The Emperor Napoleon, the Prince Imperial, and Prince Napoleon arrived at Metz on Thursday evening, July 28. His Majesty at once issued an address to the French soldiers, in which he says that he puts himself at their head in order to defend the honour and the soil of the country. He tells them that they are about to fight one of the best armies in Europe, and that the war will be long and severe, as the scene of its operations is full of obstacles. Nothing, however, will be too difficult, he adds, for the soldiers of Africa, the Crimea, China, Italy, and Mexico. Whatever road they take across the frontier they will find traces of their fathers. In conclusion, the Emperor says that the fate of liberty and civilisation depends on their success.

THE PRUSSIAN.

The King of Prussia has also taken the chief command of his army. On arriving at Mayence, the King issued a short proclamation to the troops, in which he states that all Germany is in arms against a Power which had declared war against it without a motive, and that he advances cheerfully to the contest to defend a righteous cause. His Majesty had previously issued the following proclamation to the people:—"On my departure for the army, to fight with it for Germany's honour and the preservation of our most precious possessions, I wish to grant an amnesty for all political crimes and offences, in recognition of the unanimous uprising of my people at this crisis. I have instructed the Minister of State to submit a decree to me to this effect. My people know, with me, that the rupture of the peace and the provocation of war truly did not emanate from our side. But, being challenged, we are resolved, like our forefathers, placing full trust in God, to accept the battle for the defence of the Fatherland."

According to the Austrian journals, the following is the distribution of the Prussian forces:—1. Under the command of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, at the mouth of the Oder, 108,000, consisting of two corps of the regular army and five divisions of landwehr. This army is for the protection of Berlin against an attack from the north. 2. Under the command of General Vogel von Falkenstein, 58,000 men, composed of one corps d'armée and three divisions of landwehr. This army protects the River Elbe and Hamburg. 3. An army of 58,000 on the Ems protects Bremen and Hanover. 4. The army of the Rhine is composed of 80,000 men, under General Steinmetz, at Cologne; the army of the Main (180,000 men), commanded by Prince Frederick Charles; the army of the Prince Royal (166,000 men), occupying Rastadt and the country around up to the Rhine. This makes a grand total of 650,000 fighting men.

SKETCHES OF THE WAR.

VOLUNTEERS AT THE RECRUITING OFFICE, RUE ST. DOMINIQUE, ST. GERMAIN.

We have already published some account of the enthusiasm which has been manifested in some quarters of Paris ever since the proclamation of war; and our Engraving, this week, represents the scene outside the gates of the bureau of the Rue St. Dominique during the application of volunteers to be enrolled in the army. There can be no mistake about the fact: even the Parisian gamins have nearly caught the infection; and, though he does not enlist, he either sits seriously filling his pipe as he squats beside his big dog on the curbstone, or shouts and screams warlike couplets at the head of any procession where free drinking is likely to ensue. However, there are many of these processions, and they have mostly their terminus at one or other of the enlistment offices, where they enter seriously into a serious business. The office the gate of which is represented in our Illustration is situated in the Boulevard Latour-Maubourg, at the corner of the Rue St. Dominique. There, entering the great grille, crossing a vast courtyard planted with trees, and a second which is paved and furnished with turnstiles similar to those at railway stations, the volunteers enter in line, six at a time, and, according to their choice of military or marine service, go up to separate wickets

and are enrolled without delay, all under eighteen having to present an act of authorisation from their parents.

BETWEEN FORBACH AND METZ.

It is strange to read every day of places to which, only a few weeks ago, hundreds of people were directing their holiday rambles, now connected with sieges and battles, part of the tremendous struggle which is hardly yet commenced, though the wrestlers are trying for their hold and are waiting to close in a deadly grip. There are many places along the glorious Rhine country which are identified with memorable pleasure jaunts; and we find it hard to think of them as forming only a route to Saarbrück, where the war may be said to have begun. Eighty miles on the Cologne side of Saarbrück is Creuznach, only nine or ten from Bingen, and here the war aspect commences in earnest. Saarbrück is, of course, on the Saar, on the south side of the river; and eleven or twelve miles off, on the same stream, is the fortress of Saarlouis; while eight miles up the stream is the next town, Sarreguemines, which is within the French frontier. Saarbrück and its suburb, St. Johann, on the north side of the stream are united by two bridges, and the town itself consists mainly of two or three long and straight streets on a slight ascent from the river, and with a broad hill rising behind the town. Looking westward down the river, the traveller sees a long brick railway bridge crossing the stream, and this is the railway from Saarbrück into France—the first station being Forbach, and the line continuing to Metz, with such scenes as those depicted in our Illustration at each halting-place. This brisk enterprise of the traders in farm produce, drink, food, and general sustenance is quite a feature of the war at the frontier at present; and the trains are besieged by eager detachments of self-constituted vivandières, furnished with stacks of bread, buckets of water, and jugs of wine.

OPERATIONS AT METZ.

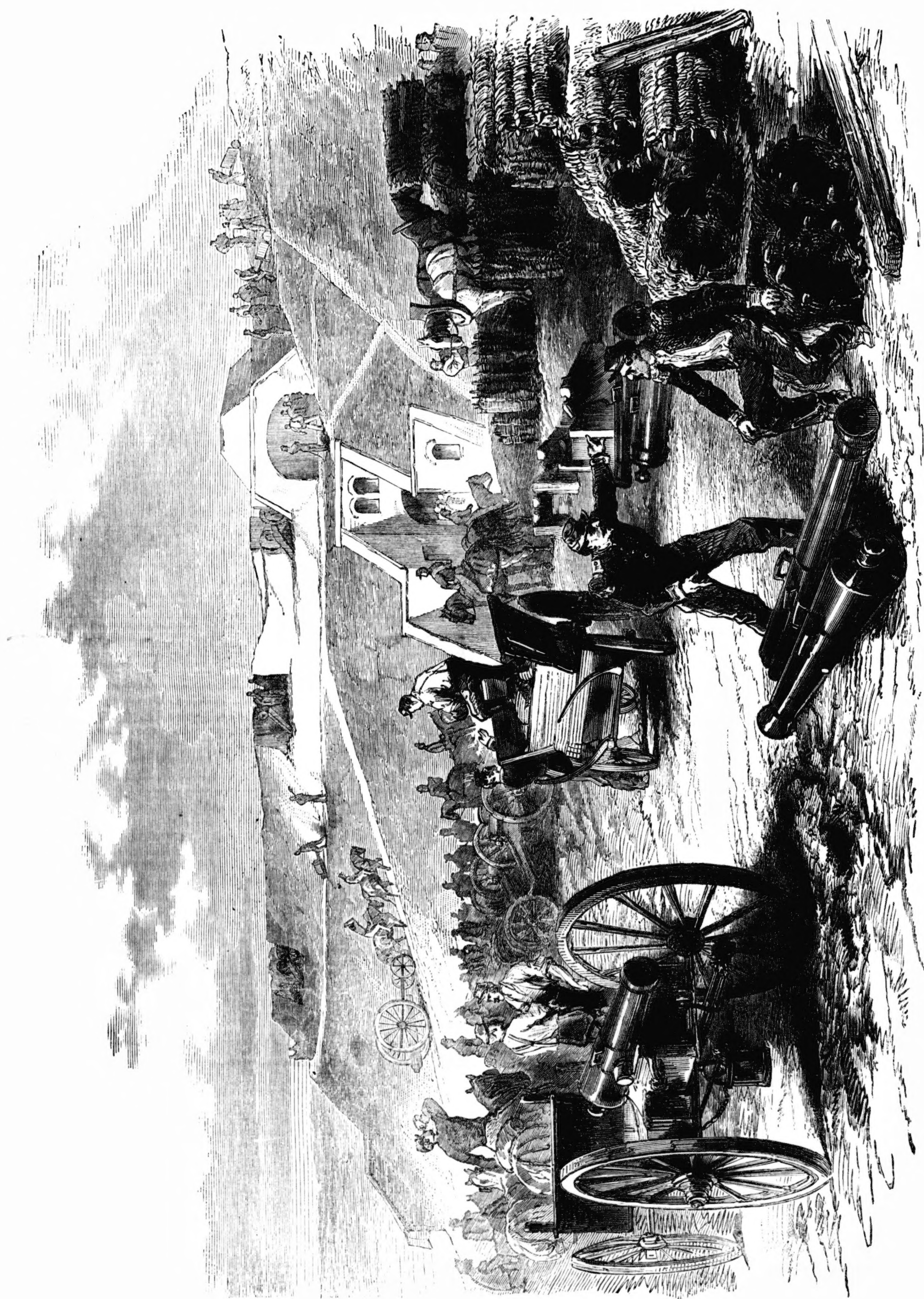
We have already published some account of Metz and its great fortifications, and the Engravings which we publish serve still further to illustrate the present condition of that enormous stronghold now that it is being still further strengthened by the addition of heavy artillery. Everything there now smells of powder, and, of course, every street is a part of the great camp. Even the few civilians who are there are gaining quite a military look; and there are soldiers, soldiers everywhere, and all are seeking drink. Drinking goes on all day long; and no wonder, for the heat is great, and the thin potatoes of ordinaire do not fever the blood, though as much cannot be said for the bad brandy, the liqueurs, and the strange compounds which seem to have been manufactured on purpose for the army. It is not only that the soldiers like to drink, but they also go into the water; the shallow ditches round the fortifications are made useful in these ways: the men wade about in them wallowing in pleasant coolness, and also contrive to catch fish which have been waiting all this time for the camp kettle. Here and in the shallow stream of the Moselle, where it runs on the level country, the army of France splashes, and fishes, and washes itself every day. There are two camps, one on each side of Metz—the Ban-St.-Martin, occupied by four regiments of the line and a battalion of chasseurs; and the Polygon, consisting of four or five regiments of the Line, a battery of artillery, and another battalion of chasseurs. The Ban-St.-Martin is an irregular polygon, bordered with fine trees, and commanded by the forts St. Quentin and des Carrières. The whole position is dotted with tents, which seem to come and go incessantly, like flies on the surface. Truth to tell, the French troops encamp or break up with wonderful quickness, appearing and disappearing at a turn of the hand and without any of the heavy mechanical movement generally associated with large bodies of armed men. One of the last places fortified has been St. Julien, which is above a league from Metz, and is entered from the town by a gate which gives upon the side of the Polygon. The road to this fort is dusty, and on a steep incline, and the station therefore occupies a position commanding all the country to the north-east of the town. Vines grow on each side of the road, and the vintage is now approaching; while the farmers declare that they expect to be able to attend to their business notwithstanding the preparations for war, in the shape of guns, engines of defence, centralisation of battalions, and the smoke of camp fires in all the open spaces about Metz.

THE BRIDGE AT KEHL.

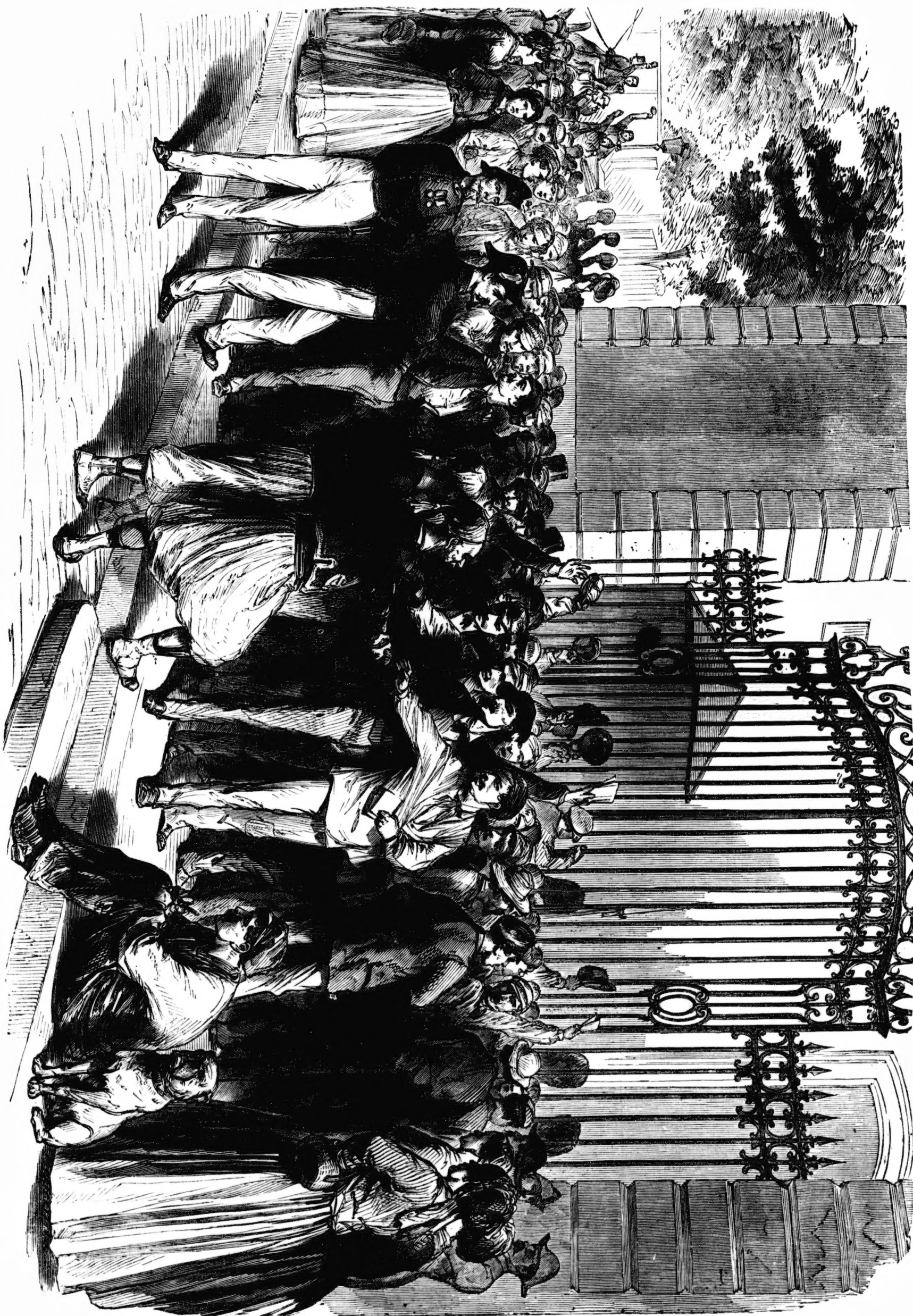
We last week illustrated and described the removal of the Baden end of the bridge of boats at Kehl. Our Engraving this week represents, not the blowing up of any part of the bridge itself, as the French supposed, but only of a portion of a stone loop-holed building intended to defend the German end, which prevented the swing bridge from turning its full ninety degrees, and thus lessened the distance between the central permanent bridge and the German swing bridge.

Another feat in the way of bridge-destroying performed by the Germans—that of the railway viaduct at Bitch—deserves mention. The railway is that which runs from Forbach and Sarreguemines to Haguenau, from which place there is a direct line to Strasbourg. It lies entirely in French territory. On the night of Monday, the 18th ult., an order came from high quarters to destroy the viaduct if it could possibly be done. It was anticipated that considerable forces would be thrown into Saarguemines and Forbach, whose effectiveness would be much diminished if the railway to Strasbourg could be broken through; the danger of a sudden concentration of the French from the south would also be annihilated by the same measure. Accordingly, a small number of picked men of the 40th Uhlans set out from Saarbrück, under the command of Lieut. Von Voigt, for Zweibrücken, the nearest German town to the French viaduct. Zweibrücken is in Bavaria, fifteen or sixteen miles east of Saarbrück, and the viaduct lies about the same distance south of Zweibrücken, seven miles within the French border. At Zweibrücken an engineer, with a body of miners and workmen, awaited the cavalry, and, on the night of Tuesday, the 19th, they set off, the thirty cavalry men with the miners and carts carrying necessary materials. But on that night, and also on the following one, the French outposts were too active for them, and they had to retire unsuccessful. Now follows the characteristic part of the enterprise. They made up their minds that the heavy materials which encumbered them must be reduced to the smallest possible compass, and that every man who took part in the expedition must be mounted. The next two days were therefore given up to riding lessons. After two days instruction the miners and workmen were able to keep themselves on their horses; and on Saturday night, the 23rd, the whole body crossed the French frontier mounted. The miners and workmen were charged to push on with all possible haste to the viaduct, while the Uhlans engaged the French outposts, who were this time surprised. They accomplished their task with perfect intelligence and success. The country was roused from sleep by an explosion which sent the great viaduct into the air. The miners rushed out again upon the railway from the spot where they had retreated after lighting the end of the train, and succeeded in tearing and blowing up some length of line on both sides of the viaduct, then mounted their horses and got back safe into Bavarian territory.

BEATING THE AIR.—The *Liberté* publishes an article respecting an alleged intention on the part of the English Government to occupy Antwerp. The *Liberté* says that the Queen and the Court, not daring openly to declare for Prussia, support her by sympathy, which, although sterile at present, none the less threatens France. It admits that the English Ministry is composed of sagacious and prudent statesmen, but says that Lord Granville is easily influenced by his Sovereign, and that Mr. Gladstone is very changeable. To occupy Antwerp, the *Liberté* adds, would be to defy France and even to endanger Belgium. It would, moreover, be a violation of the Belgian Constitution. Without the consent of the Belgian Chambers, in fact, not a single soldier could be sent to Antwerp, and the *Liberté* is quite certain that that consent would never be given. All Europe, too, would oppose an English occupation of Antwerp, and a general war would follow for the next quarter of a century. For these reasons the *Liberté* thinks Mr. Gladstone will not dare to carry out a project the results of which would be so terrible.



THE II. TROOPS GETTING ARTILLERY INTO POSITION AT FORT ST. JULIEN, NEAR METZ.



VOLUNTEERING IN PARIS: SCENE AT THE RECRUITING OFFICE IN THE ST.-DOMINIC ST. GERMAN.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 388.

CURIOUS COINCIDENCES.

On Friday week, on going into Supply, we had a dreary discussion, two hours long, upon the question, which is the best coal for the Navy—Welsh or north-country coal? A very important question, no doubt; and a stranger in the gallery, listening attentively, may have been disposed to admire rather fervently the patriotism of the members who discussed this subject. "These gentlemen," he may have said to himself, "show such good knowledge of this subject that they must have spent much time and labour to get it up, and surely they deserve well of their country therefor." But if we had been by said stranger's side, and whispered in his ear, "The gentlemen who speak so highly of the Welsh coal—to wit, Mr. Fothergill and Mr. Hussey Vivian—are proprietors of vast collieries in Wales; and Mr. Eustace Smith, who so earnestly pleads the cause of the north-country coalowners, represents a north-country coal district, and perhaps has collieries of his own there," the fervent admiration of the aforesaid stranger would probably have considerably damped down, and perhaps been altogether extinguished. "What!" he would probably have exclaimed; "these gentlemen, then, are really but we would not go so far as this. We would rather say that touting for custom to their own collieries?" Such would most likely have been the revulsion in our supposed stranger's mind. In this case, as we have often seen in other cases, by a curious coincidence, the patriotism of these three gentlemen accidentally squares with their own interests. Curious coincidences of the kind are not infrequent in the lives of most of us. Then, as to the fact that these gentlemen scarcely ever open their lips in Parliament except when this coal question turns up, we must charitably decide that, like wise men, they talk in Parliament only about subjects they understand; which is very proper. We wish, indeed, that all members would follow this example. If this rule were generally adopted the debates would, we are persuaded, be shorter by one half, and of course we should do double the work. By-the-way, these curious coincidences are not rare in the House of Commons; on the contrary, they are rather common. Thus, when the question whether it is better that the War Office should transport soldiers in Government ships or contract with private shipowners, comes before the House, all the private shipbuilders are sure to rise, one after another, to protest against the system of Government transporting troops as expensive and impolitic. Shipbuilders assert boldly that war-ships can be built more cheaply in private yards than the Admiralty can build them; and, in short, manufacturers of all sorts, or the representatives of manufacturers, are unanimously of opinion that Government should manufacture nothing; but that everything the Government wants—ships, cannon, small-arms, gunpowder, swords, bayonets, &c.—should all be made by private firms. Uncharitable people, like our imaginary stranger in the gallery, will say, "Pooh! nonsense! This is no mere coincidence. The fact is, these members want to get custom for themselves or their constituents." But we must not, will not, say that. Indeed, it would be quite unparliamentary to say so; for there is, we fancy, an order of the House, that no member shall impugn the motives of another member; and though we have not the honour of a seat in the House, we always strive in writing these articles to keep well within its rules. We have, though, often wished that members would not, as many do, so decidedly and persistently advocate measures and plans which are so manifestly for their own or their constituents' advantage. To say the least, it does not look well, and the uncharitable world outside is sure to impute to them wrong motives. Our own opinion is that it would be better if Government manufactured less. But if we were manufacturers of articles which the Government requires, we should leave the advocacy of this reform to gentlemen who are not pecuniarily interested in it.

MR. CHILDERS AGAIN IN HIS PLACE.

Mr. Childers, our able and indefatigable First Lord of the Admiralty, is in his place again, and looks as well as ever, showing no signs, that we can discern, of the severe affliction which for several weeks kept him away from the House; and he spoke on Friday night week with all his old power. We confess that, whilst those coalowners were discussing the question, "Which is the best coal for the navy, Welsh or north country?"—Aberdare or Newcastle?—our minds got into a haze, so cleverly did each speak to his brief. But whilst we listened to Mr. Childers's characteristically lucid, perspicuous, intelligible statement, the haze lifted and passed away, as a fog recedes before a gentle wind. Mr. Childers is not an orator; but there are two qualities we have often had to notice as special characteristics of Mr. Childers's speeches:—First, thorough knowledge of the subject on which he is speaking; secondly, that admirable power to make his hearers understand the subject as well as he does. You may believe in his policy, or you may utterly disapprove of it, but you cannot fail to know what it is; and, when you think of it, readers, what admirable qualities these are in a Minister of the Crown at the head of a great department of the State! The power to attain accurate knowledge, and the power to impart it, are almost as rare as they are admirable. But, of the two, the latter is the rarest. We once had a First Lord, who for knowledge of his business was, perhaps, never surpassed; but, alas! he had not the faculty of imparting his knowledge. His speeches were always very long, but they were so circuitous, involved, entangled, that it was only by the most assiduous, close, painful attention that you could gather what he meant to reveal; and, as the great majority of men are incapable of this attention, he was to them like that poor Mr. Ponsonby whom Moore satirises in the well-known couplet,

A Ponsonby claims the debate when it sets
Just as dark as it was when it rose.

THE WAR DEBATE.—DISRAELI'S SPEECH.

This came off on Monday; and early in the evening—not an hour, indeed, after the doors were opened—all the galleries for strangers were filled; notably, the Ambassadors and Peers' Gallery. The veteran diplomatist Count Nesselrode was there; and Mr. Motley, and a host of ambassadors, chargés-d'affaires, secretaries of legation, &c., unknown to fame. It was not surprising that these gentlemen assembled in such numbers. Two great nations on the Continent are at war. They had come to hear what, in such case, England will do. The House was not crowded. There were not more than 251 members present. The great majority of members have left town. Mr. Disraeli, of course, began the debate; and when he rose an awful silence—i.e., silence full of awe—seemed to fall upon the House. And this might well be, for the leader of the Opposition was about to attempt to elicit from the Prime Minister the policy of the Government. Will it be peace at any price; or will it be, under certain contingencies, war? Mr. Disraeli began his speech in his solemn, we may say his solemnest, manner. He has many styles of speaking to the English Parliament—a style, like other actors, proper to every character which he assumes. And here we may say, as we have perhaps said before, that we have never been able to think of Disraeli as anything but an actor. On Monday night he spoke as if he were oppressed with a sense of responsibility—weighed down, as he would say, by the gravity of the occasion. His voice was subdued. He spoke slowly, and apparently with great deliberation. He appeared to look at every word well before he uttered it; every sentence was elaborated to perfection. But, under all this, every now and then the cynic, as it seemed to us, peeped out, giving us the idea that after all he was only acting a part; and it always is so, and always has been so. We have heard the Conservative leader speak a hundred times, and in all his different styles; but, whether he was pronouncing a eulogium on a deceased Minister, or lashing a living one amidst the frantic cheers of his party, transfixing Mr. Beresford-Hope with a retort, or fiercely and passionately denouncing Mr. Stansfeld as the harbinger of the assassins of Europe, he always appeared to us to be only simulated; his anger put on only for stage effect. But, whether sincere or insincere, this night he, for a

time, did his work uncommonly well. He never, indeed, spoke better. Nothing could be more artistic and effective than the first part of his speech, and the matter of it was statesman-like and well-timed. In short, it was, we thought while we listened, just such a speech as we could wish to have addressed by the leader of a great political party in England to the listening civilised world. It was truth delivered in noble and impressive language. Would that the whole speech had been like the first part of it! But this could not be. It is not in Disraeli's nature to keep long together clear of sophistry, paradox, or inconsequential reasoning. When he talked about the Treaty of 1831, in which we guaranteed the neutrality and security of Belgium, he spoke like a statesman, and the House listened with eager attention, and from all sides there came applause. But soon he left this treaty, and also the treaty which guarantees the independence of Luxemburg, and began to speak of another treaty as quite as binding upon us as that of 1831. The House looked for a time puzzled. What can this treaty be? everyone seemed to ask himself. At last, it came out. It turned out to be the Treaty of Vienna, under which we are bound to secure, as he said, to the Prussian Sovereign certain Saxon provinces. In a moment down fell the Opposition leader from his lofty height. Treaty of Vienna! Heaven help the man! The demon of mischief must have inspired him to rake up out of its ashes that old, rotten thing. Surely, if, when Europe reads the first part of his speech it will admire the man; when it comes to this part there will be, from the Danube to the Northern Sea, wonder and fume, to be followed with universal acclamation. Think of it, readers, that old Vienna Treaty! Why, there is not a single party to it which has not broken it, and long since it was torn to rags and consigned to oblivion; and probably there is not another man in Europe—certainly there is no statesman—who thinks that this old treaty is binding upon any mortal upon earth. After this we left Mr. Disraeli to finish his speech as he might. By-the-way, if Mr. Disraeli were suddenly to come into power, would he recognise the force of that treaty and offer to defend that Saxony country against France? If not, why not?

SIR HENRY BULWER.

The speech of the evening was that delivered by Sir Henry Bulwer. Sir Henry is Lord Lytton's brother. He is a retired diplomatist. He entered the diplomatic service in 1829, and retired from it in 1866. There is hardly a Court in Europe in which he has not served in some diplomatic character; and he probably knows more about diplomacy than any living man. On this subject, therefore, he could speak as one having authority, and certainly his speech justified his reputation. "Ah!" our readers will say, "would that we could have heard him!" But still that wish. It was not pleasant, but painful, to hear him. Sir Henry has returned to his country a shattered man, and cannot speak now without causing pain to himself and to his hearers. Indeed one wonders as one sees him on his legs that he should have the courage to speak at all. It is therefore much better to read than it is to hear his speeches. We shall not attempt to describe his manner of speaking. It would be cruel to do so. We would rather imagine what he would be if he were in health. Our opinion, then, is that, if his bodily health were as sound and vigorous as his intellect is, he would be one of the most accomplished, graceful, and effective speakers that ever addressed the House of Commons. The mind is, as we have hinted, clear, and vigorous, and brilliant as ever, and his language and style are those of an accomplished gentleman. Sir Henry, too, obviously has humour. That portrait of Benedetti was worthy of Carlyle. Here is a touch:—"Everyone who knows the character of M. Benedetti, knows that he is a diplomatist of a very adventurous character; everyone who knows anything of the circumstances of the time of which I am speaking, knows that he was restlessly occupied with the idea of performing a great achievement, which was to render his name historical, in which, I am bound to say, he has pretty well succeeded." Again:—"As to any statements which he may have made with regard to the sentiments of Count Bismarck, I do not believe that it was M. Benedetti's wish to deceive any person. I have too much respect for gentlemen of my profession to believe that. But this distinguished gentleman has a remarkable faculty for deceiving himself."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 29.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

After Lord Granville had imparted some statements respecting the projected treaty, which has since been superseded in interest by more recent information, several bills were advanced a stage, and then their Lordships went into Committee upon the Education Bill. The discussion upon this measure assumed the character of a conversation rather than of a debate; and the amendments which were introduced did not alter the main features of the bill. Clause 25, authorising, under certain circumstances, the establishment of free schools, was rejected by a majority of 4-65 to 61. When the schedules were reached, the question of the ballot was raised, but did not occupy their Lordships long. The Duke of Richmond consented to accept the ballot as provided in the bill for the election of the school board in the metropolis; but moved an amendment providing that in other parts of the country the votes should be taken according to the system now in operation for the election of poor-law guardians. This proposal was opposed by Lord De Grey; but upon a division it was carried by a majority of 19-72 to 53. The preamble and title having been agreed to, the bill was ordered to be reported.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The early sitting of the House of Commons was spent almost entirely in Committee of Supply; but before the Speaker left the chair there was a short conversation upon the propriety of mixing north-country coal with the Welsh coal supplied to the Navy. Mr. Fothergill and Mr. H. Vivian pleaded in the interest of the Welsh coal-owners for their exclusive right to supply fuel to the Navy, on the ground that it, and it alone, combined facility of ignition and rapid production of steam with an absence of smoke. Mr. Childers, however, disputed the soundness of their assertions, and assured the House that the reports from captains of ships had been entirely in favour of the mixture which had recently been adopted by the Admiralty. In Committee there was a good deal of discussion upon the diplomatic vote; and, when it had been agreed to, two or three other orders were disposed of before the sitting was suspended.

In the evening sitting, Sir H. Bulwer, apparently much to the chagrin of Mr. B. Cochrane, postponed for a week his motion upon the subject of the Greek massacre. All that Mr. Macleod could ascertain from Mr. Gladstone as to the amendment of the patent laws was, that the Government are not prepared to make any proposals themselves, but will place no obstacles in the way of any member who feels himself competent to deal with the subject. Mr. Cardwell informed Colonel French that there was no intention to call out the Irish militia, and declined to produce any correspondence between himself and the Lord Lieutenant upon the subject. In answer to an inquiry from Sir J. Hay, Mr. Childers stated that a second flying squadron of seven frigates and corvettes would be ready for sea in the month of October, but that he was not at present prepared, for reasons which the House would well understand, to fix its destination. In Committee of Supply a number of votes, including that for the packet service, were agreed to.

MONDAY, AUGUST 1.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Several measures of interest and importance were advanced a stage; and Earl Russell introduced a measure for the reorganisation of the militia, which he announced his intention to press forward with vigour. At the commencement of the proceedings the Royal assent was given by Commission to several measures, including the Irish Land Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Mr. CARDWELL laid on the table a supplementary estimate of £2,000,000, "for strengthening the naval and military forces of this kingdom," including an addition to the army of 20,000 of all ranks during the European war. There was much cheering on both sides of the House when the estimate was read by the clerk at the table. Immediately afterwards Mr. Cardwell, in answer to questions from Mr. B. Osborne and Captain Talbot, gave a formal assurance that the Government intend to increase the defensive forces of the country. He stated, too, that the whole force of the British army was only about 2000 below the establishment; that the militia regiments, with a few exceptions, are recruited up to their full

strength; that the Supply Department is in a position to meet any emergency; and that the 14th Regiment is not now to be sent to the Cape of Good Hope.

THE WAR.

Mr. GLADSTONE, answering a question from Mr. Stapleton, stated that the law officers are of opinion that ships chartered to attend on a belligerent fleet for the purpose of supplying it with coal would, in effect, become ore ships, and as such would come under the Foreign Enlistment Act.

Mr. DISRAELI rose, according to notice, to call attention to the position of this country with reference to the European war; and, first, by way of justification for his interposition, he said that, having witnessed the outbreak of several great wars during his Parliamentary career, he had not at that much injury had been done by the reserve and silence observed by the House of Commons on such occasions, which, instead of assisting and strengthening the hands of the Government, had, on the contrary, raised it. Declining to discuss the ephemeral and evanescent pretexts of the war, which would have been disgraceful in the eighteenth century, and could not now seriously influence the conduct of any body of men, he pointed out that its real causes were to be gathered from the public declarations of the leading statesmen on both sides, such as M. Rouher and M. Bismarck; and the bluebook showed that vast ambitions were stirring in Europe, and subtle schemes were being devised which had brought about this war, and might produce other events of the utmost importance. After some remarks on the treaties guaranteeing Belgium and Luxemburg—of the former of which he said it was neglected by distinguished Liberals, and was in accordance with the traditional policy of England—Mr. Disraeli reminded the House that at the Treaty of Vienna we had guaranteed to Prussia her Saxon provinces. That engagement, he contended, ought to have given us an overpowering influence in Prussia; but Russia had undertaken a similar guarantee—and Russia, too, was anxious to be neutral as we—and in this coincidence he discerned a means by which, from the joint action of these two Powers, peace might be restored. The policy of England should be an armed neutrality, and at the proper time she might step in, and, in conjunction with Russia, exercise the most considerable effect on the course of public affairs. This led him to consider whether our armaments were in such a position as to enable us to take that line, and to require from the Government more complete information as to the strength of our fleet and of our army, the condition of our stores, the progress made in the fortifications, insisting that at a crisis like the present no effort should be spared to put the country in a position of complete security. Lord Granville, having just moved to the Foreign Office, was of course taken by surprise; but Mr. Gladstone must necessarily have been perfectly well informed as to what was impending; and Mr. Disraeli professed himself unable to understand how the Prime Minister could have reconciled it with his duty to sanction such extensive reductions of our naval and military establishments. His object, however, was rather to warn than to reproach, and he earnestly urged the House to profit by the lessons of the Crimean War, which might have been prevented had England spoken out at the right moment. We had then as strong a Government as the present; but the House of Commons maintained a reserve, and there followed discordant counsels, a firmity of action, and, finally, war. If the Government spoke to foreign Powers with that firmness which could only arise from a due appreciation of their duty and a determination to perform it, Mr. Disraeli predicted that England would not be involved in the war, that her influence, combined with that of Russia, might lead to the speedy restoration of peace. But, above all, England ought to declare in a manner not to be mistaken that she would maintain her treaty engagements, and thereby secure the rights of independent nations.

Mr. GLADSTONE commenced with a confession that the particular incident out of which the war had arisen had taken him by surprise, though, of course, he was perfectly aware of the state of feeling of which that incident was a symptom. He next sketched rapidly the steps taken by the Government to preserve peace. During the negotiations our position had been that of a mediator; our attitude now was neutrality, but not an "armed neutrality"—a phrase which he strongly deprecated, as having no historical significance totally opposed to the friendly disposition which we ought to preserve towards both belligerents. But he agreed that our neutrality ought to be accompanied with adequate measures of defence—that it ought to be what he called a "secure neutrality." As to the suggestion of joint action with Russia, he merely said that he saw no objection to joining not only with one, but all the neutral Powers for the restoration of peace; but he differed entirely from Mr. Disraeli's idea of the chain which the Saxon guarantee gave us. The dissolution of the German Confederation and the recent aggrandisement of Prussia had destroyed its binding force, and we could not have advanced it without involving ourselves in the responsibilities of war. Describing next the attitude of the Government with regard to the future, he said that the "projected treaty" was considered by the Government to be a most important document, giving a serious shock to public confidence, and we ought to feel indebted to those who brought it to light. The Government had taken the whole circumstances attending it into their consideration, and the propositions they meant to make to the House in their opinion met the necessity of the case and were calculated to establish perfect confidence and security. Having explained the various steps the Government had taken to maintain neutrality, he warmly defended it against Mr. Disraeli's charge of inactivity and inefficiency had been increased. We had 89,000 soldiers at home; there was a considerable Channel fleet afloat; the armament for the forts was ready; the supply of arms of precision was adequate; and stores were in excellent order. The House, to some extent, must rely on the responsibility of the Government; but he assured it that they were deeply sensible of the discredit of weakening the power of this country, and that, having made the most careful inquiries, they would take up the proper time to interfere for the restoration of peace. Sir John Hay having criticised the alleged deficiency of our naval and military preparations, Mr. B. Osborne expressed frankly his preference for an "armed" neutrality, and declared that we ought to call upon Russia and Austria to assist us in protecting Belgium according to the obligations contracted under the Treaty of London of 1831. Mr. Cardwell having explained the condition of our military forces, which, he maintained, were in a state of the highest efficiency, Major Dickson returned to the attack by picturing in strong terms their numerical weakness. Sir H. Hoare warmly rebuked those who were foolish and wicked enough even to contemplate a war with France; while Mr. B. Cochrane declared that the violation of the neutrality of Belgium must be regarded as a casus belli; and Mr. Richard, in the interests of peace, pleaded for caution and reticence on the part of ministerialists, politicians, and journalists. The question of armaments and arms was again discussed between General Herbert and Mr. Childers. Sir H. Bulwer, with unwonted animation of manner, asked that we should put ourselves in a position to defend ourselves, and should "let there be no mystery in the world as to our intention to defend ourselves." Mr. Graves's demand that the Government should declare that they would protect Belgium drew from the Prime Minister a repetition of what he had said upon the subject of the secret treaty. The request for more distinct assurances upon this point was pressed by Mr. Fawcett and Mr. S. Beaumont, but without eliciting any reply from the Government.

FOREIGN ENLISTMENT BILL.

The Foreign Enlistment Bill was, after some discussion, read the second time; and, when the other orders had been disposed of, the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE WAR.

Earl RUSSELL moved the second reading of his bill for facilitating the calling out of the militia, and in doing so made some general observations upon the state of affairs on the Continent. These he described as full of danger and menace, more especially to the neutrality and independence of Belgium. The conduct of France he characterised as unjustifiable in the extreme, and called upon the Government, as the best means of removing the perils with which Europe is threatened, to declare explicitly that England will at all costs abide by her treaty obligations and enforce her treaty rights.

Lord GRANVILLE assured their Lordships that nothing had occurred since last week to affect the declaration of policy which he then made. While he was willing to afford to their Lordships all proper information, he must decline to make unnecessary declarations, and must be allowed some discretion as to the time and manner in which any explanations should be conveyed to the House. For the present it was enough to say that the Government was well aware of its duties and obligations towards Belgium; and should rely upon the support of Parliament and the people, pursuing with calmness and firmness the course which the honour, the interests, and the duties of this country required. In this spirit communications had been made to foreign Powers, and would, before Parliament separated, be laid before both Houses.

Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE said a few words, and then the bill was withdrawn.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Education Bill was read the third time and passed. Lord HARROWBY procured the insertion in the Census Bill of a clause requiring the taking of a religious census; and several other bills were advanced a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TOPICS INCIDENT TO THE WAR.

Mr. GLADSTONE informed Mr. V. Harcourt that the Government adhere to their determination to leave to the Powers principally concerned the publication of the communications which were conducted by the late Lord Clarendon with a view to the mutual disarmament of France and Prussia; and stated that no attempt had been made "to secure on the part of the civilised world a combined remonstrance against an unjust and unne-

cessary war," because it was thought that such a step would be more likely to produce exasperation than to promote peace.

THE GREEK MASSACRE.

Sir H. BULWER directed attention to the case of the Englishmen massacred by Greek brigands on April 21 last, and asked what satisfaction Ministers had obtained or meant to obtain from the Greek Government in consequence of its conduct on that occasion.

Mr. GLADSTONE admitted that he could not hold the Greek Government innocent in these transactions. The inquiry, however, had not yet been concluded, but the more it was prosecuted the more shameful and painful the circumstances appeared to be. The recent change of Ministry had not been favourable to the hopes of her Majesty's Government, and he regretted to find that the presence of English agents at the inquiry had been prohibited. The Government had protested against this prohibition in the strongest terms; and, come what might, they would not forget what was due to the feelings and rights of this country. In respect of obtaining satisfaction, their first duty would be to endeavour to determine exactly the degree of responsibility that was chargeable upon the Hellenic Administration; and the best satisfaction they could obtain would be the establishment in Greece of good government, peace, order, regular institutions, just laws, and their faithful execution.

SUPPLY—OUR ARMAMENTS.

The House went into Committee of Supply, when Mr. GLADSTONE moved a vote of credit for £2,000,000, the sum required by the ordinary grants of Parliament towards defraying the expense of maintaining the naval and military services of the kingdom, including the cost of a further number of land forces of 20,000 men during the war in Europe. The motion was opposed by Sir W. Lawson on the ground that it initiated an objectionable policy, that the time for augmenting our military forces was ill-chosen, and that there was no reason to suppose we could be in danger from the French and German armies at a moment when they were arrayed in hostility to each other. Some discussion followed on the state of our armaments by sea and land, which terminated in the vote being carried by a majority of 156-161 to 5. Immediately afterwards a stage the sitting was suspended. When the House re-assembled it at once went into Committee of Supply. The vote of credit of two millions was agreed to without any opposition; and then the Committee resumed the consideration of the ordinary estimates. The discussion of the remaining votes under the Army and Civil Service Estimates occupied several hours, and gave rise to more than one interesting conversation—the grants for the works at Alderney and the compensation to Foreign-Office agents exciting especial attention. At twenty minutes past one the Committee completed its labours, and amid general cheers Mr. Dodson was ordered to report its final resolutions to the House.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Rylands allowed the third reading of the Sale of Liquors Bill to be rejected without a division.

The Lords' amendments on the Married Women's Property Bill were, with certain modifications, agreed to; but one of those introduced into the Tramways Bill was rejected upon a division.

In spite of an appeal from the Home Secretary, Mr. Talbot, who, in the absence of Mr. T. Hughes, had charge of the Sunday Trading Bill, announced his intention to persevere with the Committee upon that measure; but, after one or two gentlemen had spoken against the bill, he allowed the motion that the Speaker should leave the chair to be negatived without a division.

When the report of Supply was brought up, Mr. Baxter informed the House that there was no present necessity to increase the number of seamen and marines in the Navy already voted by the House; and took occasion to correct certain erroneous statements which had been made as to the stores of coal at our foreign stations. Mr. J. Lowther again pressed Mr. Cardwell upon the subject of prohibiting the export of horses; but only to elicit from him a renewed refusal to adopt any such measure. The Secretary for War suggested that many of the stories which had been told about horses were only mare's nests.

After a short conversation, the House went into Committee upon the Foreign Enlistment Bill; and the several clauses were, after much conversation, agreed to with some unimportant amendments.

The Meeting of Parliament Bill was passed, and the Appropriation Bill was introduced and read the first time.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR.

The Marquis of SALISBURY said he understood the noble Earl the Foreign Secretary to say, a few nights ago, that he would afford their Lordships an opportunity before the prorogation of Parliament of expressing their opinion with regard to the conduct of the Government in reference to the war between France and Prussia. As so many peers were in the country, he hoped the noble Earl would give such notice as would enable those who might like to attend to be present.

Earl GRANVILLE was understood to say that he would lay on the table all papers which would inform their Lordships of what had taken place.

EMBODIMENT OF THE MILITIA.

Lord NORTHBROOK laid on the table a bill empowering the Crown, by proclamation, in the event of a great national emergency, to embody the militia, the regard being had to the conditions under which the men enlisted. The bill also provided that in the event of the militia being embodied during the recess Parliament should be called together within ten days after the issue of the proclamation.

The following bills were read the third time and passed—viz., Clerical Disabilities, Jurists, Dublin City Voters' Disfranchisement, Army Enlistment, Shipping Dues, Exemption Act (1867) Amendment, Pier and Harbour Order Confirmation (No. 3), Telegraph Acts Extension, Sewage Utilisation Supplemental, Vestries (Isle of Man) Extradition, and Sanitary Act (1866) Amendments Bills.

Several other bills were advanced a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE WAR.

Sir G. JENKINSON gave notice of his intention to ask the Government what steps they proposed to take to enforce the provisions of the Treaty of 1841, guaranteeing the independence of Belgium, in the event of France or Prussia attempting to carry out the provisions of the secret treaty; or whether steps would be taken to secure the co-operation of other Powers who were parties to the treaty.

In reply to Mr. Rylands, Mr. OTWAY stated that the French Government and the Bavarian Government, after the declaration of war, had agreed, for their mutual convenience, that the Chancellors of the Legation should remain at Munich. M. Hory, the Chancellor of the French Legation, remained at Munich under the protection of the British Legation.

In reply to Colonel Corbett, Mr. CARDWELL said the larger portion of the militia had already been armed with breech-loaders, and the remainder would be similarly armed as rapidly as possible.

In answer to Mr. T. B. Potter, Mr. OTWAY declined to reprint copies of the Treaty of Paris in 1815, the treaty under which the Bonaparte family were excluded from the throne of France; and the protocol defining the territories ceded by France by treaty.

The Appropriation Bill was read the third time.

ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES ACT REPEAL.

On the motion for the second reading of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act Repeal Bill.

Mr. NEWDEGATE moved that it be read the second time that day three months. He complained that the measure was one which permitted and recognised the assumption of territorial titles by the Papacy, while the only thing it proposed to do that would have the slightest tendency to modify this recognition was to prevent the State from giving its aid in enforcing the decrees either of the Archbishop of Westminster or of Cardinal Cullen. He argued that the effect of the bill would be the establishment of the Roman Church.

After some discussion, the House divided. The result was a majority of 111 to 34 in favour of the second reading.

The Foreign Enlistment Bill, as amended, was then considered, and finally agreed to; as also were the Lords' Amendments to the Elementary Education Bill, with one exception.

The Stamp Duties Bill passed through Committee.

THE EXPENDITURE UPON THE NEW COURTS OF JUSTICE, up to March 31, 1870, slightly exceeded £900,000, from which must be deducted about £10,000 for the proceeds of the sale of old materials. This expenditure was for the purchase of the site, with incidental and preliminary expenses. At present the statutory limit of expenditure for the erection of the new courts and offices stands at £750,000.

THE REVENUE.—From April 1 to July 30 the total receipts into the Exchequer amounted to £20,652,822. This period, it will be observed, covers a third part of the financial year, for the whole of which the estimated revenue is £67,634,000. The expenditure during the past four months has been £24,814,944. The sums both received and spent are less than in the corresponding period of last year. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £3,228,177.

M. DE LESSEPS.—Last Saturday the freedom of the city of London, in a gold casket of elaborate and beautiful design, was presented to M. de Lesseps, at Guildhall. The presentation was made by Mr. Scott, the Chamberlain, who bore high tribute to the skill, energy, and perseverance which had triumphed over every obstacle in the construction of the Suez Canal. M. de Lesseps, in returning thanks, reminded his hearers of the interest which this country had in the successful navigation of the canal, which, although in a difficult phase of its existence, would undoubtedly realise all the hopes founded upon it.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1870.

SUMMONING JURIES.

ERKINE, in the spirit of claptrap characteristic of his times, and almost peculiar to them, declared that the final object of the British Constitution was to get twelve honest men together in a jury-box; but not even the spirit of his times would have sustained him in saying that the object of the Constitution was to bring the same twelve honest men into the jury-box twelve times over in the course of a few months. Yet this is something like what we have come to.

Lord Enfield's Committee directed its attention chiefly to three points. One was the fact that the lowering of the franchise under Mr. Disraeli's Reform Bill would bring upon the jury-roll such a number of very poor and uneducated people that it would be expedient to raise the qualification for jurymen both in counties and boroughs. A great deal of evidence was taken as to the point to which it would be safe to raise the rating qualification, and yet remain sure of a tolerably extensive list. The second point was, the payment of common jurors; and that they should be paid at the rate of half that which is usually paid to special jurors (a guinea), every witness, we believe, agreed; though whether the payment should be made per day, or per cause, or out of the Consolidated Fund, or how else, were matters upon which there was much difference of opinion. The third point was, the fair or unfair manipulation of the jury list. Upon this the evidence was conflicting, both as to facts and as to methods; but, generally, it may be stated that it was against all "alphabetical" and other schemes which did not leave a discretion with the summoning officer. A certain witness, it may be added, suggested that the grand jury should be altogether abolished; one of his reasons being that its existence was made the "handle" of a good deal of favouritism, the summoning officer or his deputy being often bribed, directly or indirectly, to put a man on the grand jury, because to have served upon that exempts him from other service.

Of late years a strong feeling against the value of the jury system, except in political cases, has been growing up in England; and it may yet fall to be considered whether, in civil cases particularly, it does not work cumbrously, expensively, and ineffectively. In the mean while, one thing is certain—the jury-lists are manipulated with gross unfairness. In districts in which the jury-list is ample—where, if it were impartially handled, it would not be necessary to summon the same man more than once in three or four years, he is summoned repeatedly in one year. If a special juror, he gets his guinea, but he would gladly pay five guineas to be let alone. Day after day he may have to be in attendance at court, while his business is going to wreck, or his wife or child is dangerously ill, or some private enterprise of the utmost possible moment goes to the dogs. In his innocence, perhaps, he does not know that half a sovereign slipped into the hands of an underling would save him this annoyance; or, perhaps, he is a citizen of Spartan virtue, and disdains to bribe. His neighbour, however, wise in his generation, has either disbursed the half sovereign, or sent the officer a hamper of game, a haunch of venison, or a present of wine or whisky; and the good neighbour is not summoned. In fact, if you wish to avoid serving your country at all as a jurymen, your rule is simple—bribe the summoning officer. If you decline to do this, that excellent person's rule is also a simple one—work the willing horse. There are scores of people in London—men whose personal presence is the very life of important concerns in which labour is largely employed—who are in this form taxed 500 per cent beyond their due share.

But, after all, there must be a resource. It cannot possibly be, in these times of broad daylight, that the summoning officer is of all social functionaries just the one being whose acts are beyond the reach of criticism and control. The cases of hardship are so numerous that there would be no difficulty whatever in getting some of them brought together and confronted with the actual resources of the jury-list. It should be perfectly easy to ascertain how many persons are on the special jury-list for any given district, how often particular persons have been summoned within a certain time, and how many, and who, have never been summoned at all. It would not be easy to prove the half-sovereign, or the whisky, or the brace of pheasants, but we should be fully justified in inferring them from the state of facts which a little statistical inquiry would infallibly disclose to us. The worst of it is that summoning officers know very well, not only that good jurors are not as a rule grievance-mongers, but that when a man has been done out of time and profit he does not like to throw good money after bad in hunting up the jury-roll and comparing his own hardships with those

of his neighbours. But the trodden worm will turn, and even summoning officers may find themselves overhauled at last. It is quite evident that upon the existence of some ready check on their laziness or partiality the whole question turns. And the check will be found before long.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, with their Royal Highnesses Princesses Louise and Beatrice and Prince Leopold, attended by the suite, is expected to return to Windsor Castle on the 17th inst. Her Majesty will probably proceed to Balmoral on the following day.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, with their family, have returned to Marlborough House, from Denmark.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE has been appointed the first president of the court of governors of Owens College, Manchester, under the new constitution of the college, and has consented to lay the foundation-stone of the new building on Sept. 5 next.

SIR WILLIAM HEATHCOTE, the late member for the University of Oxford, and the former colleague of Mr. Gladstone in the representation of the academic constituency, has been made a member of the Privy Council.

THE COUNTESS OF CAITHNESS died, on Sunday, at Invergowrie Castle. Her Ladyship had been indisposed for some time past. She was the daughter of Sir George Phillips, of Weston House.

CARDINAL BONAPARTE, the brother of Prince Pierre, wants to be Chaplain to the army of the Rhine, but it is doubtful whether the Emperor will accept his services.

Mrs. EDWARD BELLAMY, F.R.C.S., has been elected assistant surgeon to Charing-cross Hospital.

MR. G. G. SCOTT, the architect of the new Home and Colonial Offices, has received a command to proceed with the work immediately. The stoppage occurred (the *Architect* says) by order of the First Commissioner.

THE READING ASSEMBLY-ROOMS were destroyed by fire on Sunday night.

THE BELFAST CORPORATION, on Monday, unanimously resolved to ask the British Association for the Advancement of Science to hold their congress for 1872 in that city.

Mr. T. HUGHES, M.P., called on Thursday for Quebec. He intends to take a three or four months' tour through the United States, first visiting Mr. James Russell Lowell, of Cambridge, near Boston.

MR. GEORGE HODDER, who was injured in the carriage accident in Richmond Park on May 28, died on Sunday.

THE FREEHOLD SITE OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY SOMERSET, Upper Thames-street, occupying an area of 3740 square feet, was last week sold by tender by Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Son, and Co., for the sum of £10,250.

THE ODD FELLOWS' ANNUAL FETE came off, on Monday, at the Crystal Palace, but the success was considerably marred by the violent storm which set in at one o'clock and lasted a considerable time.

LIEUTENANT CHARLES EDWARD TURNER, Royal Engineers, was accidentally drowned in the Midway, on Monday, while engaged in pontooning operations at Woultham, near Rochester. The deceased, with other officers and sailors, attempted to swim ashore from the pontoon raft, during which he was carried away by the tide, and almost immediately sunk. The body was recovered shortly afterwards.

A PARIS BOOKSELLER, having applied to a publisher of lithographic prints in Berlin for a great number of copies of the portraits of the more illustrious Prussian Generals, has received this reply—"There are no copies left; we send you the originals."

WALTER MILLAR, the Chelsea murderer, was on Monday executed within the walls of Newgate. To the last he remained callous, and apparently indifferent to his fate.

TWO PERSONS well known on the Liverpool Stock Exchange are said to have absconded. One of them is said to have perpetrated frauds on a bank to the amount of £20,000; the other is said to have embezzled £10,000 of his employer's money.

THE AMBASSADOR OF THE NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION in London has notified to her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by a note dated July 29, 1870, that orders have been given to take up the sea-marks, withdraw the lightships, and extinguish the standing lights on the German coast of the Baltic.—*Gazette*.

THE FRENCH GENERAL TRANSATLANTIC COMPANY has offered its reserve steamers to the French Government as troop-ships. Only one steamer is now running between Grimsby and Antwerp. Some purchases of horses have been made in the Fens for the French army.

THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL, on Monday, resolved to contribute £500 in aid of the sufferers by the great fire at Constantinople. It was incidentally stated that the entire main drainage system of the metropolis would be completed within three months from the present time.

A DEMONSTRATION OF SYMPATHY with France, held at Treaty Stone, in Limerick, on Sunday, was attended by 10,000 persons from Clare, Limerick, and Tipperary. The place of meeting was profusely decorated with green boughs and banners, the French and Irish national ensigns being conspicuous, while a large tricolor flag was planted over the chairman's seat, amid great cheering.

THE CEREMONY OF OPENING WALTON BRIDGE FREE OF TOLL, was on Monday performed by the joint committee of the Metropolitan Board of Works and the Corporation of the City of London, amidst much rejoicing. The day was observed as a general holiday in the districts immediately affected by the inaugural proceedings. Staines Bridge will, we believe, be opened free in the course of this week.

IN UPPER STYRIA a committee for the relief of the wounded is about to be formed. The promoters propose, however, to assist German soldiers only, and declined to interest themselves on behalf of the French.

M. ROCHEFORT, whose period of six months' imprisonment expires on Aug. 18, has been informed that he will be detained for four months' longer, pursuant to an old sentence passed upon him, before he was elected a deputy, for assault and battery upon a printer who had published a libel upon him.

A MEETING OF ORANGEMEN was held in Enniskeen on Tuesday night, at which speeches were made condemnatory of France and extolling Prussia. It was resolved to meet in thousands at Dromard, on the 12th, for the purpose of expressing sympathy with Prussia. A hope was expressed that England would not allow France to behave dishonourably.

THE £2233 9s. lately awarded by the Admiralty to one Jones, a discharged clerk from the Devonport dockyard, stands to his credit in a Welsh bank. Vice-Chancellor Jacob has made an order for the payment of the sum into Court, pending the result of an information filed against Jones by the Attorney-General.

THE STEAMERS OF THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY have brought back from the Continent large numbers of tourists whom the war has frightened home to their native land. The steamers of the same company have also conveyed to the Continent several parties of Prussians—about 500 in all. They left in high spirits.

THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN LONDON has communicated to Lord Granville the official announcement of the French Government that, in consequence of the war, foreigners leaving or entering French territory will require to be furnished with passports. This decision, it is added, is justified in the interests of British subjects themselves as well as by considerations of public safety.

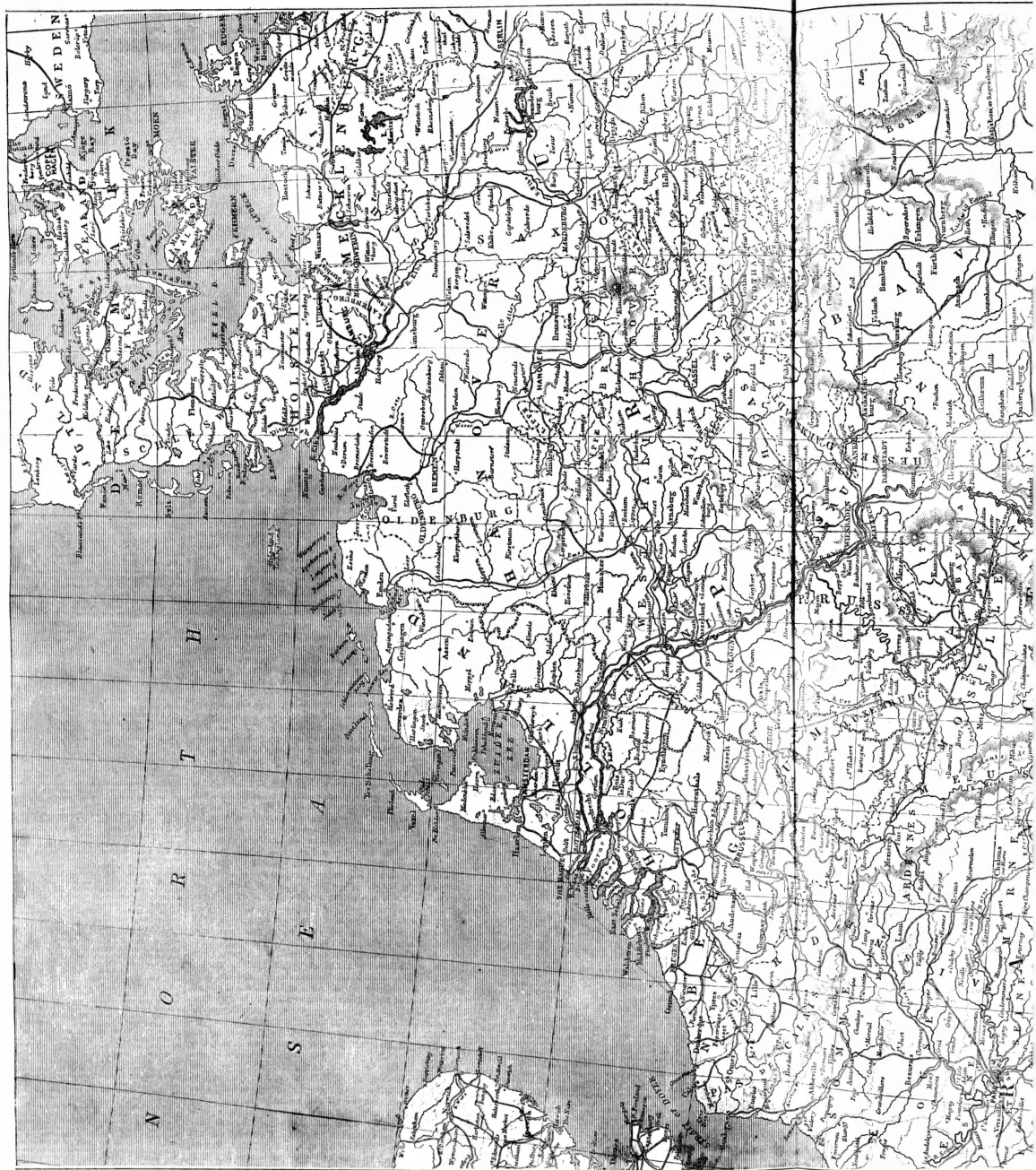
MARECHAL LE BŒUF's little speech to the six young Gardes Mobiles who are now his secretaries seems to have been very much to the purpose—"Gentlemen,—We are beginning the campaign. We will live well when circumstances are favourable; when we can get nothing—which may happen—we will buckle our waistbands in tightly. You will have much work and little rest; my esteem; the certainty of being useful to your country; and, on the least indiscretion, a ball through your head. And now, Gentlemen, break up."

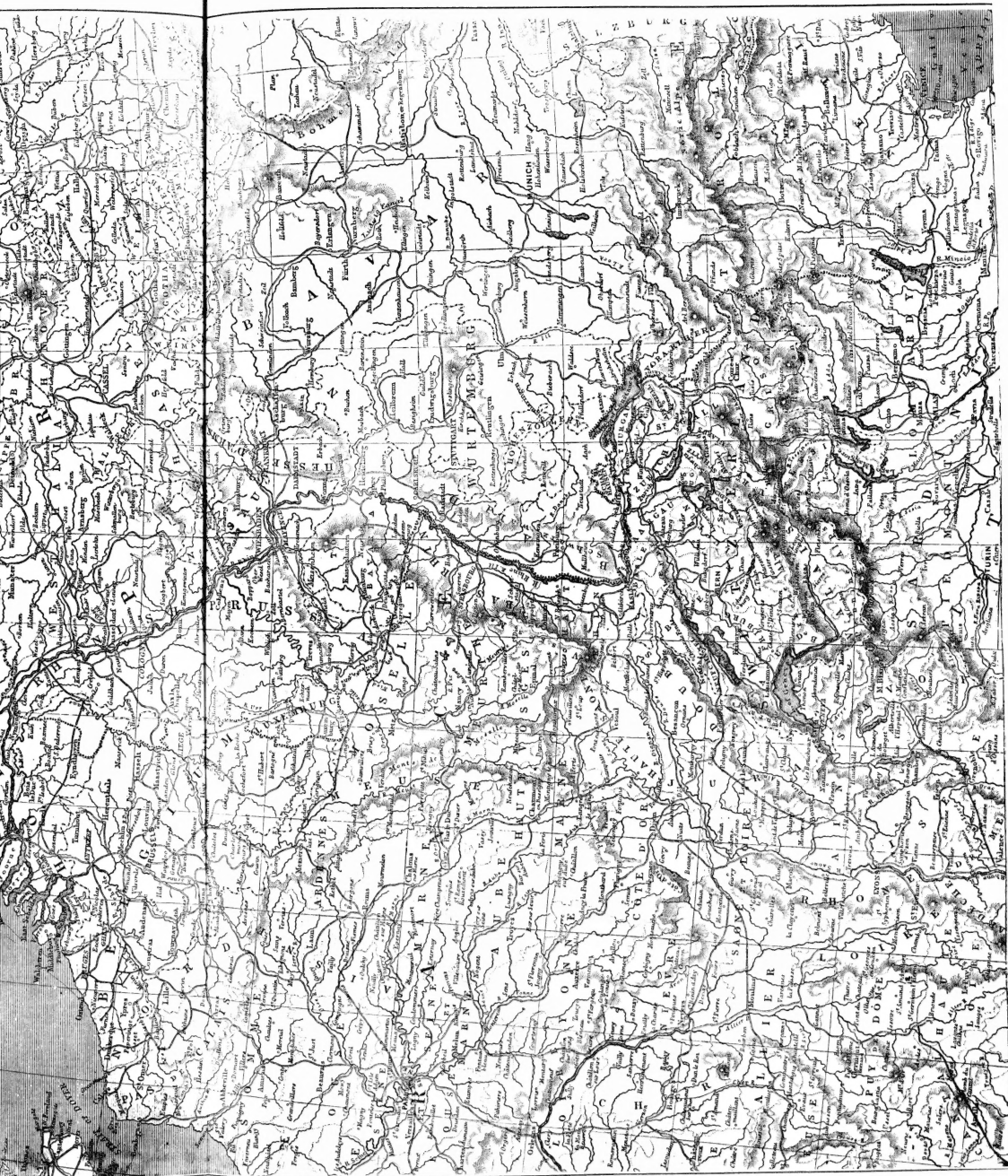
THE REV. J. NUGENT, the Roman Catholic Chaplain to the Liverpool Borough Gaol, has been granted leave of absence from his duties in order that he may visit Canada for the purpose of establishing agencies there for the reception of discharged female prisoners and destitute children, where he thinks they will be less liable to temptation than in Liverpool.

FATHER HYACINTHE has written a letter, dated July 30, to the French papers, in which he protests, as a Christian and a Catholic, against the "pretended dogma" of the infallibility of the Pope, and denies that the council which professes to have imposed it was in any sense Ecumenical.

THE REV. ROBERT MOFFAT, who for upwards of fifty years has been engaged in mission work, received a cordial welcome, on Monday, from the directors of the London Missionary Society. Mr. Moffat assured his hearers that it would give him the utmost pleasure still to further the cause of missions; and, when he had fully recovered the use of his native tongue he hoped to encourage the Churches not only by his presence but by his words.

THE LIVERY AND BADGE presented by Doggett, the comedian, in 1715, were rowed for on Monday, for the 156th time, by six watermen of the Thames who had taken up their freedom within the past twelve months. The following were the names of the competitors:—Richard Harding, Blackwall; James Griffiths, Wandsworth; Richard Marston, Bermondsey; W. R. J. Banks, Rotherhithe; John Westbrook, Legal-quays; F. Mace, Horsleydown (drawn). The start was at five o'clock. Griffiths, from the west station, took the lead, Harding and Marston level. Griffiths got away, and led Harding two lengths at the Cannon-street Bridge, but Harding gradually rowed him down, and at the Temple scoured the lead, which he held, and won by twelve lengths.





MAP OF THE SEAT OF WAR.

THE SEAT OF WAR.

GERMAN FORTRESSES IN RHINELAND.

AN examination of a map of the Rhineland will show that the line of French frontier which is continuous with that of Germany is comparatively very short; and it may be added that nearly half the frontier of the Empire, from Bâle to Dunkirk, borders upon Luxembourg and Belgium. If we follow the German side of the frontier line we come upon few strong places, and upon none of the first class. Friburg, in Baden, which closes the road from Strasbourg into the defile of the Upper Danube, is no longer fortified, and Kehl, which offers a more direct road, was dismantled years ago. Rastadt has received little attention since it ceased to be a fortress of the defunct Germanic Confederation. Landau, in the Palatinate, was also one of the fortresses of the Confederation, and might be for the Bavarians what Saarlouis is in the neighbouring Rhine province might become for the Prussians, very useful works, if the great armies are likely to fight near them. It is said, however, we know not with what truth, that it will be the policy of the Germans to fight nearer to the Rhine, and to their great fortresses of Mayence, Coblenz, and Cologne. A glance at the map shows that this is by far the strongest line which they could defend. Had Luxembourg remained German, when the Confederation fell to pieces and passed, with Landau, into the hands of a first-class Power like Prussia, the line of Landau, Saarlouis, and Luxembourg might have been made one of immense strength. Mayence in the early part of the century was one of the strongest fortresses in Europe; but it is understood to have been allowed by the late Confederation to lose some of the elements of its strength. Placed on the left bank of the Rhine, at the point where that river receives the waters of the Main, it is well adapted to be the great bulwark of Germany against France. Its works form a bow, of which the Rhine is the chord, and have three fronts of fortification looking north, west, and south, composed of fourteen bastions and a double enceinte, defended by six forts. Kastel, its suburb on the right bank, is also fortified; so that the fortress may be said to bestride the river. It is understood that the Prussian Government has done all that could be done to strengthen Mayence since it took possession of the fortress in 1866; but the notice which it has had to put the fortress upon a war footing has been too short to enable the Government to do at Mayence what France has done at Metz. The Prussians, however, affirm that they are very well content to defend the Rhine with Mayence. Coblenz, the second of the great fortified towns of the Rhine, has opposite to it the great fortress of Ehrenbreitstein as an outwork on the right bank. Cologne is a stronghold of the first class, and has in Deutz a fortified suburb corresponding to Kastel, opposite Mayence and Ehrenbreitstein at Coblenz. It is through this front—or, rather, through the armies of Germany supported by this line of fortresses—that the French will have to break if they wish to dictate peace beyond the right bank of the Rhine. The German commanders are not at all likely, as soon as the military strength of Germany is at all developed, to remain on the defensive, inasmuch as to do so would be to throw away half the advantage they have in the possession of these great works. With their army on the left bank of the river, with three crossings fortified and always assured, and with the numerous trans-Rhine railways conveying troops north and south, freely protected by the river, the Germans will be in a position to hold the French in check on the Rhine and still have troops to spare for coast defence.

In war nothing must be left to chance, and it will doubtless be the care of the Prussian Government not only to strengthen the fortresses of the Rhine, but also to look to those of the Lower Elbe. This great river forms, in fact, the second line of defence for Prussia. The basin of the Elbe is seen to be connected by numerous roads with that of the Main, thus opening a communication with the Rhine. Torgau and Wittenburg are fortresses on the Elbe, but Magdeburg is the great first-class Prussian stronghold in that basin. It was to Magdeburg that the King of Prussia retired after the disaster of Jena had opened his eyes to the incompetence of his generals and to his own imprudence. At present nothing seems more unlikely than that the Prussians should be pushed back on this line of defence; but we are not surprised to read of the ample stores which are being accumulated at Magdeburg, or of the great works being carried on there.

A military work on the Rhine fortresses, by Herr von Widdern, is much talked of just now at Berlin. The author says that the Rhine from Bâle to the Murg is not fortified at all, and that the only defence of South Germany and Austria against a French attack in that direction is the strong fortress of Ulm, occupied since 1866 by a mixed force of Bavarians and Wirtembergers, amounting to 10,000 men. This force could, in case of war, be augmented to 25,000 men, and 25,000 more could be stationed in an entrenched camp within the walls of the fortress. Rastadt, which, it is expected, will present a formidable obstacle to the French advance, lies in a valley through which runs the river Murg. The defences of the town consist of three large forts, which command the surrounding country, and are united by walls. The southern and western forts, called "Leopold" and "Frederick," are on the left bank of the Murg; the northern fort, called "Louis," on the right bank, where there is also an entrenched bank capable of holding 25,000 men. Rastadt is four miles from the Rhine, and the intervening country is covered with woods, so that the fortress could not prevent an army from crossing at that point. The next fortress is Landau, which formerly consisted of three forts—one to the south, one to the east, and one to the north-west, separated from the town by marshes on the banks of the little river Queich. The southern and eastern forts have been recently abandoned, and the only one kept in a state of defence is now the north-western. The most important and the best situated fortress in this district is Germersheim, on the banks of the Rhine. It commands a considerable stretch of the river on both sides, and practically closes it to an enemy as far as Mayence and Coblenz. It would greatly facilitate the advance of troops into the Rhine palatinate, as two or three bridges might be thrown across the river, besides the floating bridge which already exists there, under cover of its guns. It would also form a basis of operations for the left wing of an army posted on the line of the river Queich. Mayence, one of the most important of the Rhine fortresses, is commanded by some of the adjoining hills. This has rendered it necessary to multiply the fortifications in the town, and there is, in consequence, hardly room enough for a large garrison. The whole of the country between Mayence and Bingen is now strongly fortified, and between it and the mouth of the Main (on the opposite bank of the Rhine) there are three large entrenched camps. As to Coblenz, Herr von Widdern says that it would require a force six times as large as the garrison to besiege it with any prospect of success. An enemy would probably begin the attack by opening fire on Fort Alexander from the hill known as the Kuhkopf, where his troops would be sheltered by the woods. The author also describes the fortifications of Cologne and Wessel, but adds nothing to what is already known on the subject.

PROBABLE COURSE OF OPERATIONS.

A writer on this subject in the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—

"The forward movement of the French army will probably have commenced. In which direction? A glance at the map will show it.

"The valley of the Rhine, on the left bank, is closed in to the west by the mountain chain of the Vosges from Belfort to Kaiserslautern. North of this latter town the hills become more undulating, until they gradually merge in the plain near Mayence.

"The valley of the Moselle in Rhenish Prussia forms a deep and winding cove, which the river has worked out for itself through a plateau, which rises to the south of the valley into a considerable range called the Hochwald. As this range approaches the Rhine the plateau character becomes more predominant, until the last outlying hills meet the farthest spurs of the Vosges.

"Neither the Vosges nor the Hochwald are absolutely impracticable for an army; both are crossed by several good high-roads, but neither are of that class of ground where armies of from 200,000 to 300,000 men could operate with advantage. The country between the two, however, forms a kind of broad gap, twenty-five to thirty miles in width, undulating ground, traversed by numerous roads in all directions, and offering every facility to the movements of large armies. Moreover, the road from Metz to Mayence goes through this gap, and Mayence is the first important point on which the French will probably move.

"Here, then, we have the line of operations prescribed by nature. In case of a German invasion of France, both armies being prepared, the first great encounter must take place in the corner of Lorraine east of the Moselle and north of the railway from Nancy to Strasbourg; so, with a French army advancing from the positions where it concentrated last week, the first important action will take place somewhere in this gap, or beyond it, under the walls of Mayence.

"The French army was thus concentrated:—Three corps (the 3rd, 4th, and 5th) in a first line at Thionville, St. Avold, and Bitché; two corps (the 1st and 2nd) in second line at Strasbourg and Metz; and, as a reserve, the Guards at Nancy and the 6th corps at Châlons. During the last few days the second line was brought forward into the intervals of the first, the Guard was moved to Metz, Strasbourg was abandoned to the mobile guard. Thus the whole body of the French forces was concentrated between Thionville and Bitché—that is, facing the entrance of the gap between the mountains. The natural conclusion from these premises is, that they intend marching into it.

"Thus the invasion will have commenced by occupying the passages of the Saar and the Blies; the next day's proceedings will probably be to occupy the line from Tholey to Homburg; then the line from Birkenfeld to Landstuhl or Oberstein to Kaiserslautern, and so forth—that is to say, unless they are interrupted by an advance of the Germans. There will be, no doubt, flanking corps of both parties in the hills, and they, too, will come to blows; but for the real battle we must look to the ground just described.

"Of the positions of the Germans we know nothing. We suppose, however, that their ground of concentration, if they intend to meet the enemy on the left bank of the Rhine, will be immediately in front of Mayence—that is, at the other end of the gap. If not, they will remain on the right bank, from Bingen to Mannheim, concentrating either above or below Mayence as circumstances may require. As to Mayence, which in its old shape was open to bombardment by rifled artillery, the erection of a new line of detached forts, 4000 to 5000 yards from the ramparts of the town, seems to have made it pretty secure.

"Everything points to the supposition that the Germans will be ready and willing to advance not more than two or three days later than the French. In that case it will be a battle like Solferino—two armies deployed on their full front marching to meet each other.

"Much learned and over-skillful manoeuvring is not to be expected. With armies of such magnitude there is trouble enough to make them move simply to the front according to the preconceived plan. Whichever side attempts dangerous manoeuvres may find itself crushed by the plain forward movement of the masses of the enemy long before these manoeuvres can be developed."

THE TREATIES OF 1839 AND 1867.

THE treaties signed at London, April 19, 1839, between Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia on the one part, and the Netherlands on the other, and between Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia on the one part, and Belgium on the other, declare:—Article 1, that his Majesty the King of the Netherlands, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, engages to cause to be immediately converted into a Treaty with his Majesty the King of the Belgians the articles annexed to the present Act, and agreed upon by common consent, under the auspices of the Courts of Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia. Article 2, that her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary and Bohemia; his Majesty the King of the French, his Majesty the King of Prussia, and his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, declare that the articles mentioned in the preceding article are considered as having the same force and validity as if they were textually inserted in the present act, and that they are thus placed under the guarantee of their said Majesties. The annex to the treaties signed at London on April 19, 1839, between Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, on the one part, and the Netherlands on the other part, and between the same States on the one part and Belgium on the other, states, in article 1, that the Belgian territory shall be composed of the provinces of South Brabant, Liège, Namur, Hainaut, West Flanders, East Flanders, Antwerp, and Limbourg, such as they formed part of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands constituted in 1815, with the exception of those districts of the province of Limbourg which are designated in article 4. The Belgian territory shall, moreover, comprise that part of the grand duchy of Luxembourg which is specified in article 2. Article 7 declares that Belgium, within the limits specified in articles 1, 2, and 4, shall form an independent and perpetually neutral State. It shall be bound to observe such neutrality towards all other States.

The treaty between her Majesty, the Emperor of Austria, the King of the Belgians, the Emperor of the French, the King of Italy, the King of the Netherlands, the King of Prussia, and the Emperor of Russia, relative to the grand duchy of Luxembourg, signed at London on May 11, 1867, declares that the grand duchy of Luxembourg, within the limits determined by the act annexed to the treaties of April 19, 1839, under the guarantee of the Courts of Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, shall henceforth form a perpetually neutral State. It shall be bound to observe the same neutrality towards all other States. The high contracting parties engage to respect the principle of neutrality stipulated by the present article. That principle is and remains placed under the sanction of the collective guarantee of the Powers signing parties to the present treaty, with the exception of Belgium, which is itself a neutral State.

RECRUITING is now proceeding in London with greater activity than at any time since the war with Russia. Government, it is said, have abandoned the intention of proceeding with the sale of Woolwich Dockyard.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., vice president, in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, various rewards were granted to the crews of different life-boats for services on the occasion of shipwrecks on our coasts. The life-boat Lucy, stationed at Whitby, was fortunately the means, on the 26th ult., in conjunction with a steamer, of bringing safely into harbour the schooner Mary Jane, of Sunderland, and her crew of four men, that vessel having struck on Whitby rocks. On the following day the Blackpool life-boat, Robert William, saved the yacht Active, of that place, and the four persons on board. They had been overtaken by the gale, and were in a very perilous position on the Crusader sandbank, off the Lancashire coast. Rewards were likewise granted to the crews of different shore-boats for saving life from wrecks on our coasts. Payments amounting to about £1900 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. The Ancient Order of Foresters had just presented, through their secretary, Samuel Shawcross, Esq., the sum of £100 as their contribution for the past year in aid of the support of their life-boats Forester and Foresters' Pride, which had been generously presented by the order to the society, and which are stationed respectively at Newquay, Cardigan, and at West Hartlepool. A legacy of £10, bequeathed by the late Mrs. Wells, of Plymouth, had also been remitted to the institution. On the occasion of the inauguration of the Chapel (Lincolnshire) new life-boat station, on the 22nd ult., a most imposing and interesting demonstration had taken place, and it was considered that at least 10,000 persons had assembled to witness the proceedings on the occasion. Some reports having been read from the Inspector and the assistant Inspector of life-boats to the institution, the proceedings terminated.

THE LOUNGER.

OUR Secretary for War is a grave man, not much given to funning; but that statement of Sir John Pakington on Tuesday night about the Scotch regiment which, he said, had no breech-loaders was too much even for Mr. Cardwell's habitual gravity. A Scotch regiment without breech-loaders? Oh, dear, no! But if Sir John meant breeches, it was quite true. Several Scotch regiments only wear kilts; but they are all fully furnished with Snider breechloading rifles. Perhaps the right hon. member for Drogheda did not quite appreciate the difference between a garment and a weapon. He had better pay a visit to Scotland during the vacation, and learn. Another joke is fathered upon Mr. Cardwell. Some one pressed him on Wednesday to prohibit the export of horses. This he declined to do, and remarked that a good many of the stories told about the country being drained of horses were only "mares' nests." It is lucky for Mr. Bernal Osborne that the close of the Session is at hand, for, if the facetious fit should remain upon the Secretary for War, Mr. Osborne might have to look to his laurels as chief jester to the House.

The Appropriation Bill has been introduced, and was read the first time on Wednesday—a sure sign that the end is near. The general expectation now is that the prorogation of Parliament will take place next Thursday, the 11th. This event will be more than usually welcome, for, what with the heavy work and the extraordinarily hot weather, Ministers, members, and officials of all ranks, are thoroughly worn out.

I last week ventured to call attention, Mr. Editor, to the awkward predicament in which some of your daily contemporaries found themselves in consequence of the course they thought proper to pursue when the now famous "Project of Treaty" was made public; and I should like now to revert to the subject for a moment in the hope of showing one or two of those journals the danger of yielding to influences instead of fairly judging facts. The conductors of two of those papers (I need not mention names) must surely feel rather small now that a document is admitted to be genuine which they so unhesitatingly and in such strong terms denounced as a forgery. There was no qualification in the terms they employed; the letter and the purport of the secret treaty were alike declared by them to be spurious. They were wrong on both points, and have been compelled to fall back upon recriminations as to who first broached the infamous schemes that treaty embodied. The acumen of the writers in those journals and their prestige as guides of public opinion are thus gravely damaged; and for what? In one case, I do not hesitate to say, in consequence of yielding to official "inspiration," emanating from a quarter sufficiently obvious; and in the other, from a desire to receive such inspiration, or from a wish to be thought to possess it; motives, all of them, surely quite unworthy of English journalism. Inspiration, if it be legitimate, is a most excellent thing. You and I, Sir, and all writers for the press, would be glad enough to have facts, ideas, arguments, found for us; and only be called upon to perform the comparatively easy task of clothing them in words. Such an arrangement would lighten our labours immensely. But "inspiration" has its dangers, as well as its advantages. What if your "inspired" facts be spurious, your arguments unsound, and your ideas fallacious? And what, further, if you be subsequently compelled, positively or tacitly, to confess that they are so? In such case, would it not be wiser for a journalist to deal with affairs on their merits, and to rely upon his own judgment rather than trust to the "inspiration" of parties who, to say the least, are open to the suspicion of a desire to mislead? See what inspiration has done for M. Benedetti. He was "inspired," he says, by Count Bismarck when he drew up the "Projet de Traité;" and a pretty mess the inspiration has led him and his master into. Your contemporaries—at least one of them—were inspired to deny the authenticity of that draught, and have so been made to say the things which were not, and to figure as erring guides before the eyes of those who trusted them. I hope your contemporaries will learn wisdom from their miscarriage on this occasion, and carefully eschew "inspiration" (and the lust of it) for the future.

More war maps, and good ones. Mr. Wyld has issued a very comprehensive coloured war map, which includes parts of France, Prussia, and Belgium, and shows the course of the Rhine from Strasbourg to Düsseldorf. It is clearly printed, and the territorial boundaries are well defined. From the well-known French house of Hachette and Co. we have a war atlas which contains maps of the east of France, the valleys of the Rhine, the Neckar, and the Moselle, with plans of the fortified towns in France and Prussia, and a large coloured map of Central Europe. This little work is of very handy shape, executed with much neatness, and will be found extremely useful. Messrs. C. W. Bacon and Co. (of the Strand, not Fleet-street, as I last week said by mistake) have added several new maps to their series, one of which (No. 9), the "Bold-Print Military Map of Central Europe," very distinctly coloured, is especially useful as showing the several boundaries and all the principal places with great clearness. Mr. Stanford, too, has issued a series of maps illustrative of the seat of war and of the probable course of operations, to whatever side victory may incline. If the French penetrate into Germany, from any or every accessible point, we can follow their steps, note their progress, and judge of their strategy. If, on the other hand, the Germans drive their adversaries back and carry the war into France, we are with both sides still, and can see the positions that may be defended and that must be won. Any way, with the help of the maps and the plans published, we can all imitate my Uncle Toby, and at our own firesides fight the entire campaign out, and so enjoy the excitement without encountering the risks of war.

The London Stereoscopic and Photographic Company have published a "Guinea Bust of Charles Dickens." It was modelled from life by an Italian who studied Mr. Dickens's expression at his various readings. It is now published for the first time, but the truthfulness of an early model presented to the great author elicited his warmest approbation.

Scotchmen in particular, and the admirers of heroism in general, whatever their nationality, will be pleased to learn that the Bruce monument subscription progresses well. The Earl of Glasgow has contributed £25 to the fund, and many other handsome donations have been received.

The Marquis of Westminster has allowed the authorities of the South Kensington Museum to select for exhibition any pictures from the Grosvenor Gallery for which space can be found. Many of the finest works have been accordingly removed, and will be exhibited in a few days.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Cornhill* contains a very amusing paper entitled "Wanted, a King: An Adventure in the Realm of Tobago." The drift of the fun will be gathered from the opening sentence:—"I beg your pardon for introducing myself to you so abruptly: I am one of the Teuton princes disestablished by Count von Quickmarch." By "An Optimist" there is an agreeable and fine-spirited essay entitled "Rest." The author of it says he was some time ago "much struck by the title" of "some papers in a popular periodical on 'Enforced Pauses in Life,' but could not at the time make a pause in life to read them." This is rather curiously incorrect. There was a series of papers about Life, of which the essay referred to, entitled "The Enforced Pauses of Life" was one, but there was no series on "enforced pauses." The paper was afterwards reprinted in a volume, and no doubt the author of it (whom I happen to know) will be gratified to find trains of thought so similar to his own running through the mind of another writer. By-the-way, on page 233 the word "I" occurs thirty-three times. This is a little too much even for an essay which is avowedly *à la Montaigne*.

Macmillan has only this moment arrived.

The *Student* should be read, if only for the very intelligible

"Zymoties," by Dr. Legg—though one is not quite clear about his use of the locution *de novo*. But on it he truly said that the cholera of 1831 or 1832 (which was it?) "decimated" the country? It is dangerous, and worse than dangerous too, to put forward individual action; everything from "the State," "the people," do what it will, to individual action we must at once in these matters; and an instructed instinct of self-preservation would even now do more than a thousand health-officers.

Does not often attract me so early in the month; but Mr. Sedgwick's paper on the "Portrait of Mr. Pickwick" is too good to pass over for an hour. The remark may have been made, but at all events it is a good one, that Seymour's poor fellow, was Dickens's opportunity. At first Dickens "up to" the cuts—he was engaged to do so; but, once by the death of the artist, he gradually raised the chair of the elderly "loafer," and of Sam Weller into a sort of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. By-the-by, I may take opportunity of noticing the utter absurdity of the remark more than once) that the only writer besides Shakespeare in Mr. Dickens's printed writings prove him to have been a Smollett. Mr. Carlyle is expressly mentioned in the "Tale of Two Cities;" and Wordsworth's line, "There are forty feeding like one," is the subject of a very humorous bit of parody in the Christmas Carol. Besides—no, I will not continue. How the paper on "Crown Lands" got into *Bellevue* Olympus only I know; but it looks like a very able one. I am incompetent to say it offhand, however. Mr. Mortimer Collins is a really good writer, but (I should say) rather lazy critic; if he had not been latter, his essay on "Coleridge's Country" would have been at least better. What he says about the charge against Coleridge of having "done nothing" is very true, and he would not see the terms in which the charge is met by John Ruskin in some little-known letters published in an obscure philosophico-religious magazine *circa* 1851. But he needed not to ask "the philosophy" as a vexed question, for there is no dispute on any hand—that with Coleridge initiated the movement which culminated in the Broad Church. I cannot agree with Mr. Mortimer Collins in calling "Paul and Virginia" a "silly story;" it is a story told with an artificial touch here and there. Coleridge's remark about that very foolish one in the storm scene was far more profound than it looks or rather far-fetched. The point is this: A man on the deck of the sinking ship, who is "strong as Hercules," has stripped in order to swim to shore, and Virginia turns away and dies—certainly "a little fool," as Mr. Collins calls her. But the question that used to agitate my juvenile "buzz" when I first read the story was this: If this man "strong as Hercules," why did not he strip the "little fool" by force and carry her off? This was in the days when I used to believe every word of the story, and that "L. E. L." (Love, Everlasting Love! her initials were said to mean) was a great poetess. But, thank you, Mr. Collins; your condemnation has made me read the book through over again, and (as old-fashioned writers used to put it) "I envy not the sensibility of the man" who can read through the storm scene, or that in which Virginia "up in the night and takes her walks abroad, or that in which she visits her "Repose," without emotion!

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER

The slackest theatrical time of the year has arrived. All the theatres in London are closed which ever thought of closing, and some priding themselves on keeping their doors open the whole year round have been compelled to bid the public good-by, at least for a time. The Gaiety is a case in point. If I correctly understood the programme, the Gaiety was to be one of the everlasting theatrical plants—one that was warranted to flower all the year round. But the hot weather or the unfortunate selection of plays has been too much for it, and on Friday week the Gaiety was numbered among the slaughtered houses.

It is curious, though it should not be curious at all, that the two best plays of the year are still successful. Those who do me the honour of perusing these fugitive notes will remember that I spoke kindly, not to say enthusiastically, both of "M.P.," by Mr. Robertson, and "The Two Roses," by Mr. Albery. Both the PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE and the VAUDEVILLE are doing well, and both plays are still eminently popular. This is as it should be. In point of fact, the only theatres which have produced good plays are enabled to keep their doors open, and this in spite of an unusually hot summer. Managers would do well to study the fact when weeping over empty money-boxes or waiting at closed doors.

I have to chronicle another change at the HAYMARKET. "Helen Douglas" of course would not do. This preposterous play very soon received the cold shoulder from the public. "Moral Felicity" was altogether too slight a piece for the principal feature of the evening, notwithstanding the fact that it was supplemented by a very fair revival of Frank Talfourd's burlesque of "Atalanta." So they have dug up the old Haymarket "Overland Route" again; and really, considering the lame company, it is not so very badly played, after all. Mr. Crabb (a stranger to London), who is cast for Mr. Buckstone's celebrated character, is the only one positively bad. Mr. Crabb is painful; and the worst part of the whole thing is that the audience actually roars with laughter at Mr. Crabb, and no doubt induces him to believe that he has made a tremendous hit. The situations are ludicrous, not the actor; and I am pained that a Haymarket audience should so far forget itself as to laugh at such a performance. Mr. Arnott, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Flockton are all passable—no more. A Miss Edith Challis comes, with the orthodox American flourish of trumpets, to play Mrs. Seabright. She is a tall, commanding, and vivacious lady, with a little too much confidence, perhaps; but spirit enough, and no vulgarity. I dare say Miss Challis will be very useful to the stage. She has good looks and, evidently, stage experience in her favour. Miss Challis, with more spirit than discretion, illustrates the old "you are always tying your shoe" story by making a dash at the innocent little nigger who is squatting on the floor, "always swinging the punkah," and giving him a thoroughly good skaking. For my own part, I thought by far the best performance was that of Miss Colepepper by a Miss Julia Ashton—a ladylike, discreet, and very intelligent little actress, who I hope soon to see attached to a good working company. The revived burlesque is, like most revived burlesques, a somewhat dull and dismal affair. It brings to the front a knowing little lady called Lottie Venn (trained in the Transatlantic school, I should think), and notably Miss Annie Merton, one of the soundest actresses in the whole troupe. The burlesque does not give Miss Merton a fair chance. I saw her some months ago, quite by chance, at an outlandish and outlying theatre, and I know very well when she happens to get a character bit she will astonish the public.

The STRAND has suddenly opened again. "Kind to a Fault" is a neat little piece; but I never could see the fun or the elegance of the burlesque called "A Pilgrim of Love;" and, as to Mr. Terry's absurd song of complaints, it makes me cross to hear an audience laugh at such rank idiocy. When fun descends to drive, it is absolutely painful. The Strand has, however, an acquisition in Miss Jenny Lee, the clever actress who played the street Arab so well in "Little Faust" at the Lyceum.

"Midsummer Night's Dream" is in active rehearsal at the QUEEN'S. It is to be superbly mounted, and Mr. Phelps plays Bottom.

The autumn attraction at DRURY LANE is to be Mr. A. Halliday's "Kenilworth;" and some people say "The Beggars' Opera" is to be at the Gaiety.

A new farce and burlesque are shortly to be produced at the VAUDEVILLE, when Mr. D. James is to join his company at last.

THE PROJECTED TREATY.

STATEMENT BY COUNT BISMARCK.

The Chancellor of the North German Confederation has addressed the following circular despatch to the representatives of the North German Confederation at the Courts of neutral States:—

BERLIN, July 29.

The expectation expressed by Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone in the British Parliament that more exact information in reference to the draught treaty of Count Benedetti would be furnished by the two Powers concerned was in a preliminary manner fulfilled on our side by the telegram which I addressed to Count Bernstorff on the 25th inst. The telegraphic form only enabled me to make a short statement, which I now complete in writing. The document published by the *Times* contains by no means the only proposition of a similar nature which has been made to us on the part of the French. Even before the Danish War, attempts, addressed to me, were made both by official and unofficial French agents, to effect an alliance between France and Prussia, with the object of mutual aggrandisement. It is scarcely necessary for me to point out the impossibility of such a transaction for a German Minister whose position is dependent on his being in accord with the national feeling; its explanation is to be found in the want of acquaintance of French statesmen with the fundamental conditions of existence among other peoples. Had the agents of the Paris Cabinet been competent to observe the state of German affairs, such an illusion would never have been entertained in Paris as that Prussia could permit herself to accept the aid of France in regulating German affairs. Your Excellency is, of course, as well acquainted as I am myself with the ignorance of the French as regards Germany. The endeavours of the French Government to carry out, with the assistance of Prussia, its covetous views in reference to Belgium and the Rhine frontier were brought to my notice even before the war; therefore before my accession to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I cannot regard it as my task to transfer such communications, which were purely of a personal nature, to the sphere of international negotiations, and I believe it will be best to withhold the most interesting contribution which I could make towards the elucidation of the matter from private letters and conversations.

The above-mentioned tendencies of the French Government were first recognisable by the external influence on European politics and the attitude favourable to us which France assumed in the Germano-Danish conflict. The subsequent bad feeling which France displayed towards us in reference to the treaty of Gastein was attributable to the apprehension lest a durable strengthening of the Prusso-Austrian alliance should deprive the Paris Cabinet of the fruits of its attitude. France, before 1866, reckoned upon the outbreak of war between us and Austria, and again willingly made proposals to us as soon as our relations with Vienna began to be unfriendly. Before the outbreak of the Austrian war proposals were made to me, partly through relatives of his Majesty the Emperor of the French, and partly by confidential agents, which each time had for their object smaller or larger transactions for the purpose of effecting mutual aggrandisement. At one time the negotiations were about Luxembourg, or about the frontier of 1814 with Landau and Saarbrücken; at another about larger objects, from which the French Swiss cantons and the question where the linguistic boundaries in Piedmont were to be drawn, were not excluded. In May, 1866, these pretensions took the form of a proposition for an offensive and defensive alliance, and the following extract of its chief features is in my possession:—

"1. En cas de Congrès, pour suivre d'accord la cession de la Vénétie à l'Italie et l'annexion des Duchés à la Prusse. 2. Si le Congrès n'aboutit pas, alliance offensive et défensive. 3. Le Roi de Prusse commencera les hostilités dans les 10 jours de la séparation du Congrès. 4. Si le Congrès se réunit pas, la Prusse attaquera dans les 30 jours après la signature du présent traité. 5. L'Empereur des Français déclarera la guerre à l'Autriche, dès que les hostilités seront commencées entre l'Autriche et la Prusse (en 30 jours 300,000). 6. On ne fera pas de paix séparée avec l'Autriche. 7. La paix se fera sous les conditions suivantes:—La Vénétie à l'Italie, la Prusse les territoires Allemands et les Duchés (2 à 3 millions d'habitants) au choix, la République Fédérale dans le sens Prussien; pour la France, le territoire entre Moselle et Rhin, sans Coblenz ni Mayence (comprend 500,000 âmes de Prusse), la Bavière rive gauche du Rhin, Birkenfeld, Hombourg, Darmstadt (215,000 âmes). 8. Convention militaire et maritime entre la France et la Prusse dès la signature. 9. Adhésion du Roi d'Italie."

The strength of the army with which the Emperor, in accordance with art. 5, would assist us was, in written explanations, placed at 300,000 men; the number of souls comprised in the aggrandisements which France sought for was 1,800,000, according to French calculations, which, however, did not agree with the actual statistics. Everyone who is familiar with the secret, diplomatic, and military history of the year 1866 will see glimmering through these clauses the policy which France pursued simultaneously towards Italy (with whom she at the same time also secretly negotiated), and subsequently towards Prussia and Italy. In June, 1866, after we had rejected the above scheme of alliance, notwithstanding several almost threatening warnings to accept it, the French Government began to calculate on the Austrians being victorious over us and upon our making a bid for French assistance, after the eventuality of our defeat, to pave the way for which diplomatically French diplomacy was occupied to the uttermost. That the Congress anticipated in the foregoing draught of alliance, and again proposed later, would have had the effect of causing our three-months' alliance with Italy to expire without our having profited by it, is well known to your Excellency, as is also the fact that France, in the further agreements relative to Custozza, was busied in prejudicing our situation, and, if possible, bringing about our defeat. The patriotic affliction of the Minister Rouher furnishes a comment upon the further course of events. Since that time France has not ceased leading us into temptation by offers at the cost of Germany and Belgium. I had never any doubt as to the impossibility of acceding to any such offers; but I considered it useful in the interests of peace to permit the French statesmen to hold these illusions peculiar to them so long as it should be possible so to do without giving even a verbal assent to their propositions. I imagined that the annihilation of French hopes would endanger the preservation of peace, the maintenance of which was in the interest both of Germany and Europe. I was not of the opinion of those politicians who considered it undivisable to shun, by all the means in one's power, a war with France, on the ground that such a war was, in any case, unavoidable. No one can so clearly foresee the designs of Divine Providence; and I look upon even a victorious war as an evil in itself, which the statesmanship of a country must strive to spare its people. I could not in my calculations leave out the possibility that in the constitution and policy of France changes might arise which would relieve the two great neighbouring people from the necessity of war—a hope which was favoured by each postponement of the rupture. For these reasons I was silent about the propositions made, and delayed the negotiations about them without ever on my side giving a promise. After the negotiations with his Majesty the King of the Netherlands fell, as is well known, to the ground, extended proposals were again addressed to me by France, including in their purport Belgium and South Germany. At this conjuncture comes the communication of the Benedetti manuscript. That the French Ambassador, without the assent of his Sovereign, and on his own responsibility, drew up these propositions, handed them to me, and negotiated them, modifying them in certain places as I advised, is as unlikely as was the statement on another occasion, that the Emperor Napoleon had not agreed to the demand for our surrendering Mayence, which was officially made to me in August, 1866, by the French Ambassador, under threat of war in case of our refusal. The different phases of French bad feeling and lust for war which we have gone through from 1866 to 1869 coincided with tolerable exactness with the willingness or unwillingness for negotiation which the French agents believed they met with in me. In 1866, at the time when the Belgian Railway affair was being prepared, it was intimated to me by a high personage, who was not a stranger to the former negotiation, that, in the case of a French occupation of Belgium, "nous trouverions notre Belgique ailleurs." Similarly, on other occasions, I had been given to understand that in a solution of the Eastern question France would seek its share not in far-off places, but close upon its boundaries. I am under the impression that it was only the definitive conviction that no enlargement of the frontiers was to be achieved with us that has led the Emperor to the determination to strive to obtain it against us. I have, besides, reason to believe that, had the publication in question not taken place so soon as ours and the French preparations for war were complete, propositions would have been made to us by France jointly, and at the head of a million armed men, to carry out against unarmed Europe the proposals formerly made to us, and either before or after the first battle to conclude peace on the basis of the Benedetti proposals, and at the expense of Belgium.

Concerning the text of these proposals, I remark that the draught in our possession is, from beginning to end, from the hand of Count Benedetti, and written on the paper of the Imperial French Embassy, and that the Ambassadors here, including the representatives of Austria, Great Britain, Russia, Baden, Bavaria, Belgium, Hesse, Italy, Saxony, Turkey, and Wurtemberg, who have seen the original, have recognised the handwriting. In Article I, Count Benedetti, at the very first reading, withdrew the closing passage, placing it in brackets, after I had remarked that it presupposed the interference of France in the internal affairs of Germany, which I, even in private documents, could not allow. Of his own accord he made an unimportant marginal correction in Article 2 in my presence. On the 24th inst. I informed Lord A. Loftus verbally of the existence of the document in question, and, on his expressing doubts, invited him to a personal inspection of the same. On the 27th of the month he took note of it, and convinced himself that it was in the handwriting of his former French colleague. If the Imperial Cabinet now repudiates attempts for which it has sought since 1864, both by promises and threats, to obtain our co-operation, this is easily to be explained in presence of the political situation.

Your Excellency will please read this despatch to M. . . and hand him a copy.

(Signed)

VON BISMARCK.

EXPLANATION OF M. BENEDETTI.

The Paris *Journal Officiel* states that, as the publication of a so-called treaty between France and Prussia has led to a discussion which tends to distort the truth, the Emperor's Government feels itself called on to publish the following letter addressed by Count Benedetti to the Minister for Foreign Affairs:—

Paris, July 29.

Monsieur le Duc,—However unjust may have been the criticisms of which I was personally the object when the fact became known in France that the Prince of Hohenzollern had accepted the crown of Spain, I did not feel called on to notice them, and, as was my duty, I left to his Majesty's Government the care of rectifying them. I cannot maintain the same silence in presence of the use which Count Bismarck has made of a document to which he seeks to assign a value it never possessed, and I ask permission from your Excellency to re-establish the facts in all their extent. It is a matter of public notoriety that the Chancellor offered to us before and during the last war to assist in re-uniting Belgium to France in compensation for the aggrandisements which he aimed at, and which he has obtained for Prussia. I might on this point invoke the testimony of the whole diplomacy of Europe, which was aware of everything that was going on. The French Government constantly declined those overtures; and one of your predecessors, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, is in a position to give on this point explanations which not leave any doubt subsisting. At the moment when the Peace of Prague was concluded, and in presence of the excitement raised in France by the annexation of Hanover, Electoral Hesse, and the city of Frankfurt to Prussia, Count Bismarck again tested the most ardent desire to re-establish the equilibrium broken by the acquisitions. Various combinations respecting the integrity of the States bordering on France and Germany were suggested; they became the object of several interviews, during which the Count always endeavoured to make his personal ideas prevail. In one of those conversations, and in order to form a thorough comprehension of his intentions, I consented to transmit them, in some sort, under his dictation. There is no less than the substance, clearly demonstrates that I confined myself to reproducing a project conceived and developed by him. Count Bismarck kept the paper, desiring to submit it to the King. On my side, I reported to the Imperial Government the communications which had been made to me. The Emperor rejected them as soon as they were brought to his knowledge. I ought to say that the King of Prussia himself appeared unwilling to accept the basis suggested, and since that period—that is to say, during the last four years—I have had no further exchange of ideas with Count Bismarck on the subject. If the initiative of such a treaty had been taken by the Emperor's Government, the draught would have been prepared at the Ministry, and I should not have had to produce a copy in my own handwriting; besides, it would have been drafted simultaneously in Paris and Berlin. In that case the Prussian Minister would not have contented himself with handing, indirectly, the text over to publication, especially at the moment when your Excellency was rectifying, in the despatches which were inserted in the *Journal Officiel*, other errors which attempts were being made to propagate. But to attain his aim—that of misleading public opinion and forestalling any indiscretions which we might ourselves commit—he has adopted this expedient which dispensed him from specifying at what moment, under what circumstances, and in what manner that document was written. He evidently entertained the idea of suggesting, owing to those omissions, conjectures which, while disengaging his personal responsibility, would compromise that of the Emperor's Government. There is no need to qualify such proceedings; to point them out and deliver them to the judgment of the public in Europe is sufficient—Accept, &c.,

V. BENEDETTI.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Further official correspondence respecting the war between France and Prussia has been presented to Parliament. This collection consists of despatches, all of which refer to the treaty published in the *Times* on the 25th ult. The dates range from that day to Saturday last, when M. de La Valette communicated to Lord Granville a despatch of the Duke de Gramont dated the 29th ult. The purport of the various documents now issued has already been made public by the telegrams which have been published, and by the explanations in Parliament. In his last despatch the Duke de Gramont says he is convinced that, after the frank explanations of the French Government, the English Government and public opinion in England will see that there is no occasion to dwell any longer on the pretended revelation of Count Bismarck. "Being in want of arguments to defend his policy," adds M. de Gramont, "in regard to the question which caused the war, the Federal Chancellor hoped to mislead public opinion as to the nature of our policy. He has not hitherto succeeded; and, whatever may be the new assertions which he brings forward in his despatch to Count Bernstorff, he will not succeed in getting rid of the responsibility which he is endeavouring to lay upon us." The communication of Count Bismarck referred to is given above.

BATTLES BETWEEN THE PRUSSIAN AND THE FRENCH.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing to a contemporary, gives the following list of battles in which Prussians and French have been engaged:—

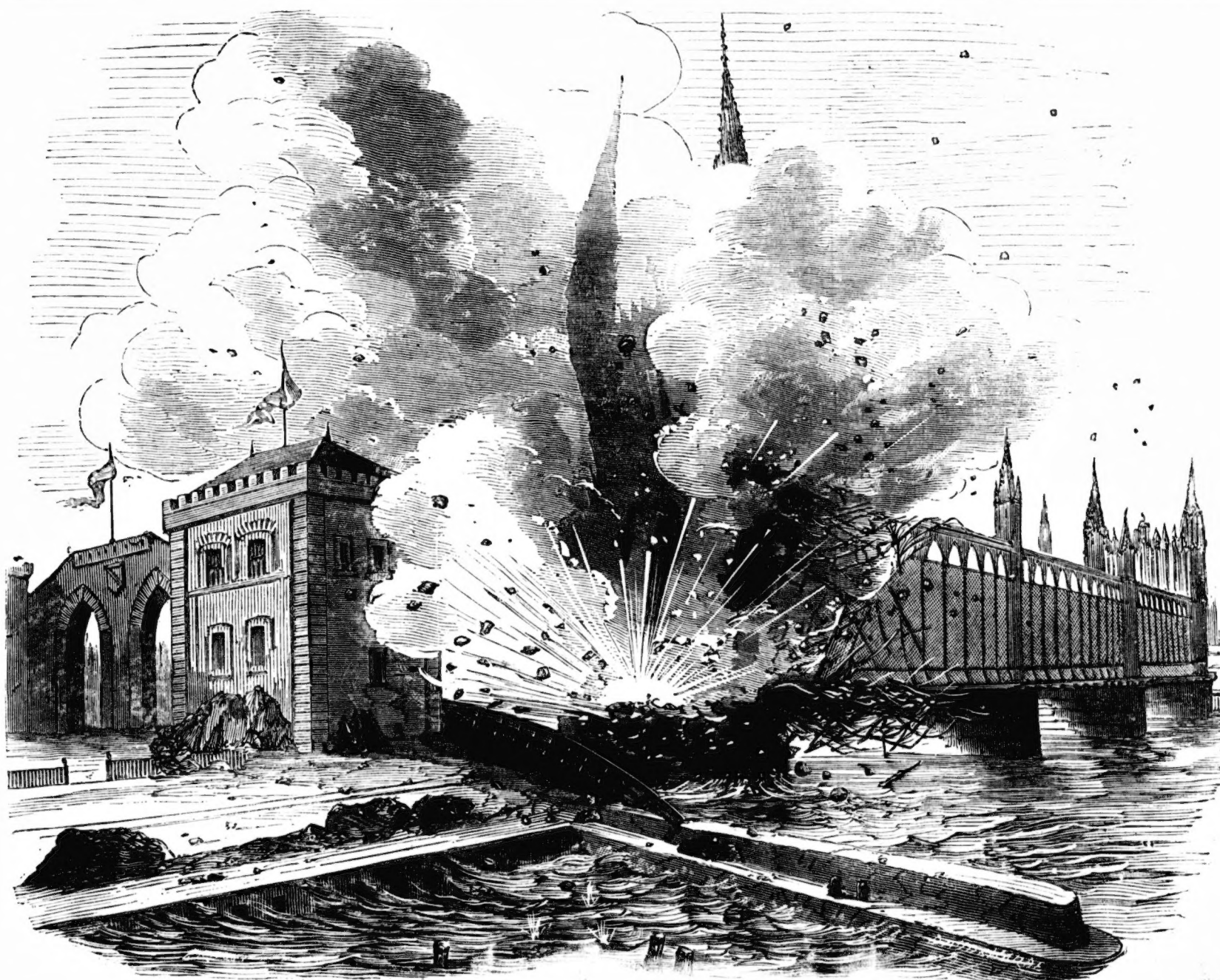
PRUSSIAN VICTORIES.—20.	
1706. Turin	Prussians and Austrians.
1709. Malplaquet	Prussians, English, and Austrians.
1757. Rossbach	Prussians.
1758. Crefeld	Prussians.
1759. Minden	Prussians.
1813. Grossbeeren	Prussians.
1813. Dennewitz	Prussians.
1813. Katzbach	Prussians.
1813. Hagensberg	Prussians.
1813. Kulm	Prussians, Russians, and Austrians.
1813. Wartenburg	Prussians.
1813. Leipzig	Prussians and Allies.
1814. Brienne (la Rothière)	Prussians.
1814. Laon	Prussians and Allies.
1814. Craon	Prussians and Allies.
1814. Arcis sur Aube	Prussians and Allies.
1814. Montmartre	Prussians and Allies.
1815. Waterloo	English and Prussians.
1815. Wavre	Prussians.
1815. Quatre Bras	English and Prussians.
FRENCH VICTORIES.—6.	
1792. Valmy	Prussians and Allies.
1806. Jena and Auerstadt	Prussians.
1807. Friedland	Prussians and Russians.
1813. Lützen	Prussians and Russians.
1814. Montmirail	Prussians.
1814. Montereau	Prussians and Allies.
UNDECIDED BATTLES.—3.	
1807. Eylau	Prussians and Russians.
1813. Bautzen	Prussians and Russians.
1815. Ligny	Prussians and Russians.

HOMEWARD AMERICAN MAILS.—Owing to the war, all the German steamers have been withdrawn from the Atlantic mail service, and consequently the arrival in this country of American mails has become more tardy than ever, as the United States Post Office do not put mails on board the Cunard steamers which leave New York on Wednesdays, and invariably reach Queenstown about two days earlier than the Guion steamers leaving New York the same day, and carrying by appointment the United States mail. The Cunard steamers leaving New York on the Thursdays carry the United States mail of that day, and these vessels reach Queenstown as soon, and frequently sooner, than the Guion steamers leaving New York with the mails on the previous day. An instance has just occurred showing the working of this postal service. The Cunard steam-ship Java, without mails, and the Guion steam-ship Colorado, with the mails, both left New York on Wednesday, July 20, and, while the Java arrived at Queenstown on Friday, July 29, the Colorado did not arrive there till Sunday, July 31; meanwhile the Cunard steam-ship Abyssinia, which left New York the day after the Colorado, reached Queenstown one day before her.

THE LATE SIR DAVID BREWSTER.—On Monday a statue of the late Sir David Brewster was inaugurated at the University of Edinburgh in presence of a large assemblage. The erection of the memorial was resolved upon at a meeting held in March, 1868, and the work was intrusted to Mr. Brindley, R.S.A. The statue, which is of Sicilian marble, and about 7½ ft. in height, has been placed under the central arch on the west side of the quadrangle of the college. At the inauguration Lord Newes, in the name of the committee of subscribers, presented the statue to the University. The Chancellor (the Lord Justice-General) accepted the gift and returned thanks for it on behalf of the Senatus Academicus.



METZ IN WAR TIME: SCENE OUTSIDE THE HOTEL DE METZ.



BLOWING UP OF A HOUSE AT THE BADEN END OF THE STRASBOURG AND KEHL BRIDGE.—(SEE PAGE 83.)



FRENCH TROOPS EN ROUTE: OFFERING REFRESHMENTS TO THE SOLDIERS.—(SEE PAGE 83.)

A CORRESPONDENT'S EXPERIENCES AT METZ.

IN our last week's Number we described Metz and its fortifications. Some notion of what sort of place Metz is just now—or was a few days ago—may be gathered from the following account given by the special correspondent of the *Telegraph* of his experiences there:—

"I reached Metz at mid-day, and spent about two hours examining the chief points of interest in the city. It was something, at last, to realise that there was such a thing as a war on hand. The staple commodities of the hour seemed to be horses and hay, the former being tethered by hundreds, the latter piled by tons in the centre of the town, and caravans and carts still bringing both in from the country districts. As it was not impossible I might one day take up my quarters in Metz—and I had been recommended if I did so to stay at the Grand Hôtel de Metz in preference to the Hôtel de l'Europe—I thought I would look up the former and possibly dine there. My custom in a strange place, if I am not tied for time, is to drift about, and trust to stumbling on any place I want. I did so on this occasion, 'doing' the cathedral and the city in general before applying myself to seek the caravanserai. Not having pounced upon it, however, I was reduced to make inquiry, and, in a fatal moment, I addressed an evil-looking scoundrel in a blue pinafore, politely asking him where the Hôtel de Metz was. He directed me wrongly as it appeared, for he sent me to the Europe, which forms for the moment the Quartier Général. The Hôtel de Metz was just opposite; but seeing this, too, in full possession of the military, I passed on, making up my mind to dine at the excellent buffet of the station. My evil-looking informant officiously ran after me, and told me I had passed the Hôtel de Metz—which, by-the-way, I could have told him. I then went round to one or two cafés; but the stupendous Cent Gardes, no less than the generally musty look of the French patriots, were too much for me; and I resolved to defer my meal until I arrived at the station. I set out for that point, therefore, and had just arrived at the gate of the city when a gendarme stepped up to me, and, in a mystic manner, said, 'Then you have not found your camarades at the Hôtel de Metz?' I told him I had no 'camarades,' and only wanted to see where the hotel was. 'But you have been seeking your camarades'—he would insist upon my gregarious character—at all the cafés.' Again I assured him that my object in examining the cafés was not social, but bacchanalian—though it was true I had expected, if there were any journalists in Metz, that I might see them loafing about the cafés. 'Eh! bien—come with me to the Hôtel de Metz.' So off we marched, the Executive looking all importance, and myself feebly trying to pump a little information out of him en route. He had no idea of the number of troops in Metz, and barely admitted the possibility that an Emperor of the French existed. Arrived at the hotel, I saw my evil-looking friend awaiting us, who, I am glad to say, looked a little more hang-dog than before. A swell gendarme in a cocked hat then took up the case; and I fear I failed to satisfy these functionaries with any indications that I realised any position. I would laugh. At last I was desired to step up stairs, and found myself in presence of General St. Sauveur and several officers. A bloused individual and a priest were also before the General, evidently 'in trouble,' like myself. I should have been glad to wait and hear what these gentry had been doing. They looked, by the way, in a most orthodox state of 'funk.' My nationality, however, gave me the preference; and the production of a passport, bearing the signature of 'Granville,' was not without its effect. I am sorry to say General St. Sauveur could not translate the document, but handed it over to a young officer who did it for him. He then asked me my object in coming to Metz, which I explained to him in a very few words; and he added, 'Let me advise you to go off by the next train. We cannot allow you to stay.' I replied, 'I thought foreigners might remain in the towns so long as they did not attempt to follow the army.' 'For the moment, no,' he said. 'You must not stop at Thionville, Metz, Nancy, or Strasbourg. Go back to Luxemburg'—for I stumped him with my return ticket—'or to Paris, or, better still, to England. It is not safe to remain here.' Pressed again as to my purpose in wishing to stay in Metz, I made a clean breast of it, and told him frankly I was an English journalist. 'We do not allow our own journalists,' he replied, 'as we cannot be expected to allow foreign ones.' I argued still, 'There are journalists, for we see correspondence from Metz in the newspapers.' 'There is,' he said, 'only one journalist in Metz at this moment, an American, who was arrested this morning. His papers were irregular, and he is now locked up in the fort.' Nothing could exceed the politeness of the General and officers; and my friend of the Executive, as well as the scoundrel in the pinafore, looked considerably astonished when they found us having a quiet confidential chat, all smiles and good humour, instead of my imploring mercy, and perhaps being sent off to the fort. Finally, the young officer who had translated the passport took an opportunity of airing his English—though I will wager my French was far more Britannic—saying, 'Really, Sir, you must go. You must not stay at Metz, Thionville, &c., to-day. To-morrow, perhaps, yes. Good morning.' So off I went, smiling at all. I had half a mind to ask the gendarme and my friend in the pinafore to drink to our next merry meeting. That, however, might have been constituted a new offence. The correspondent, however, had to retire to Luxemburg, whence he had come.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON AND THE ENGLISH PRESS.—It is announced by telegram from Metz that a special correspondent of the *Standard*, who had been arrested there, has been unconditionally released by order of the Emperor Napoleon, the facts of the case having been laid before his Majesty. The Emperor has also requested it to be made known that he relies on the honour of the English journalists to act with discretion and judgment, wishing, as he does, to preserve the most cordial relations with England. In case of difficulty, the correspondents are to address themselves to the Provost-Marshal. It would appear, therefore, that the representatives of the English press will not now be prohibited from accompanying the French army.

PRUSSIAN TORPEDOES.—We understand that the Prussians have laid a regular network of torpedoes along their Baltic coast, and at the mouths of the rivers Ems, Weser, and Elbe. Both classes of torpedo are said to be in use, the charge being in general dynamite, which, although a dangerous, is a fearfully explosive material. Many of these torpedoes are believed to be mechanical, and, if so, are exceedingly dangerous to both friends and foes. Others are arranged on the ordinary electrical principle, and are perfectly safe except when the electric communications are established. Thus the navigation of the coast, with its rivers and harbours, is quite open to the friendly ship. The merchantman, fleeing like the dove from the hawk, may safely steer over and among the hidden mines; yet the next moment, by the mere turn of a key, the channel may be effectually closed to the pursuer. The torpedo is the war-ship's *bête noire*. The proudest ironclad that ever floated is powerless against these submerged volcanoes. Many of our sailors remember the Russian torpedoes during the last war. Harmless and insignificant as they were, yet they caused a good deal of trouble; and if they had only been on half or quarter the scale of the present mines several of our ships would be now lying in Baltic mud. We shall not be the least surprised, therefore, some morning to hear of the sudden disappearance of a nautical belligerent.—*Globe*.

THE FOREIGN ENLISTMENT ACT.—The Foreign Enlistment Bill, which was read the second time in the House of Commons on Monday, is calculated to prevent the fulfilment of the prophecy current in Prussia, that we shall be involved in another Alabama case before the close of the present war. The measure is far more stringent than that now in force, and which it is intended to amend. It renders illegal the enlistment of British subjects in all parts of the world, and of aliens within the Queen's dominions. With respect to ships, it makes the building as well as the fitting and equipment of them criminal, and provides for their arrest by warrant of the Secretary of State and their condemnation by the Court of Admiralty, in the event of their being built, fitted, or equipped in this country. It also directs that should vessels of this kind escape, any prizes they may capture and bring in to our ports shall be restored to their owners. The bill, in conjunction with Mr. Gladstone's declaration in regard to the supply of coal to the vessels of war of either of the belligerents, should certainly have the effect of allaying suspicion as to the impartiality and sincerity of our neutrality. It is the opinion of the law officers of the Crown that colliers tending a belligerent fleet at sea may be regarded as enemies by the other belligerent, and treated as part of the armament with which they are associated.

MUSIC.

THE closing performances of the opera season took place in Drury Lane Theatre on Thursday week and last Saturday, Mdle. Christine Nilsson being the heroine of each evening. There were large audiences, an impression having gained ground that the reappearance of Mdle. Nilsson after her return from America is very doubtful. That impression we do not share in the least. While health and voice remain to the fair Scandinavian she is likely to keep before the public, and therefore the chances are that we shall hear her for many seasons to come. It is a fact, however, that she sails for the States on the 3rd of next month, and there may have been some anxiety to see what must be the last of her for a little time. Thursday's performance was devoted to "Lucia," and consequently need not detain us. Everybody knows how Donizetti's familiar opera is rendered by Mdle. Nilsson as the heroine, Mr. Santley as Ashton, and Signor Foli as Raymond. True, there was a new Edgardo in Signor Perotti, who, however, made only a moderate effect, and can be thus summarily dismissed. On Saturday Mdle. Nilsson took her benefit—appearing in three characters from three popular operas. As Violetta, in the first act of "La Traviata;" Marta, in the second act of Flotow's *chef-d'œuvre*; and Lucia, in the third act of Donizetti's work, she gave her admirers a glimpse of impersonations which have been some of her greatest successes. There is no need to enter into the details of Mdle. Nilsson's performance; and it will be sufficient to state that she never exerted herself more earnestly or with greater success. The enthusiasm of the audience was extraordinary. After each act Mdle. Nilsson had to reappear again and again, while at the close she was summoned and re-summoned till both admirers and admired were weary. We may not sympathise with the full extent of this popular adulation; but there is no denying that it is easy of explanation. The fair Swede is a great artist and a graceful woman—a conjunction able to account for anything in the shape of prima-donna worship.

The opera season just ended has not been without a certain value; in this respect differing from its predecessor, which, as managed by a monopoly, had no value at all. Whether the rival houses have found rivalry profitable is a doubtful question—one, moreover, that does not concern us, except so far as the answer bears upon the probable future of Italian opera in London. But, whatever the answer, it is tolerably sure that men will be found willing to run the risk of management; so that the public may rest content with the prospect of enjoying all the advantages of competition. Its disadvantages, falling to the lot of those who voluntarily put themselves in their way, need not trouble us. During the season five new or unfamiliar works have been produced—four at Drury Lane and one at Covent Garden. The preponderance in favour of Drury Lane is easily explained. Mr. Wood had no repertoire when he began, and it was a matter of indifference, so far, whether he mounted an old work or a new one. Moreover, it was desirable to gain a reputation for enterprise, regard for art, progressive measures, and so on. Hence the number of new works mentioned in the prospectus, and the energy which resulted in the actual production of "Abu Hassan," "L'Oca del Cairo," "Mignon," and "Der Fliegende Holländer." Against the choice of these operas there is nothing to say, especially as they represent, in some sort, the past, present, and, by pretension, at least, the future of the lyric drama. "Abu Hassan" and "L'Oca del Cairo" belong to an era that has gone by. "Mignon" efficiently illustrates the opera of our own day, with its light, airy style and sensational effects; while there is enough of Future Music in "Der Fliegende Holländer" to give it a representative character. That all were brought out with great musical, if not scenic, efficiency we need not assert; and for this too much praise cannot be given to Signor Arditi, whose labours throughout the season were as incessant as successful. The one novelty at Covent Garden, Signor Campana's "Esmeralda," could hardly have been produced for its own sake so much as for that of Madame Patti, to whom it gave a new and attractive part. We shall not again discuss the merits of a work already placed on the shelf, never to be disturbed. That Messrs. Gye and Mapleson did no more in the way of novelty, only proves their reliance upon the attractions of a large repertoire and a band of capable artists.

We have had plenty of new singers during the season, though only a very few won public favour. Mdle. Sessi made herself tolerable at Covent Garden, in spite of shortcomings only too obvious. She sang well, and proved herself a very industrious, painstaking artist; qualities which fairly deserve success. Mdle. Cari had a very brief career under Mr. Gye, but her subsequent engagement at Drury Lane proved that Mr. Gye was wrong to part with her. This young American is, we believe, destined to a good position on the lyric stage. Signor Vazzani was a failure; and with him closes the list of débutants at Covent Garden. Drury Lane brought forward many more new singers, if not with much more success. Madame Volpini we knew some years ago, and her reappearance was preassured against catastrophe. Mdle. Reboux came to us a second time also; but with a voice worn out and practically useless. Madame Barbot only proved once again that artists never know when Time has beaten them; while Madame Mombelli showed that a capital singer in the concert-room may be next to useless on the stage. Mdle. Lewitzky promised much at the outset, but she missed a golden opportunity when playing Zerlina and crushed her rising prospects effectually. On the male side, we can hardly style M. Faure a new-comer; while it is needless to praise his excellent performances. Of Signor Perotti we have recently spoken, and there only remains to be said that in Signor Raguer and Signor Rinaldini two very good secondary artists have been discovered. To sum up results, not a single great singer, nor even a singer promising to be great, has appeared. *Tant pis*.

Many rumours are flying about with reference to the next season, the most reliable pointing to three Italian operas—Mr. Gye at Covent Garden, Mr. Mapleson at Her Majesty's, and Mr. Wood at Drury Lane. Should this come to pass, we can only say that each must be managed on a very different system to that now in vogue if any result be sought other than certain loss.

A WAR WAGER.—A certain M. Thomas, of Paris, lately offered in the *Pigaro* to bet 200,000fr. to 100,000fr. that the French would be in Berlin by Aug. 15, and stated that the money had been deposited. Some members of the Union Club of Berlin have accepted the wager, and placed the 100,000fr. required in the hands of the firm of Rothschild, of London. They now hope that M. Thomas will follow their example, as they have communicated the fact to the editor of the *Pigaro*, and given him a longer time than he demanded. The wager now stands:—M. Thomas lays 200,000fr. to 100,000fr., and asserts that the French will enter Berlin as conquerors before the end of August. We are, after all, not so much astonished at the bet of M. Thomas, for the great majority of Frenchmen firmly believe that Berlin is on the Rhine.—*North German Correspondent*.

THE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.—It is stated that the arrangements for the forthcoming prize meeting of the National Artillery Association at Shoeburyness will undergo some alterations, rendered necessary, in the interest of the country, by the war between France and Prussia. It was calculated that fifty-five artillery volunteer corps would send to the camp about 105 detachments, comprising some 1000 men, commanded by 110 officers; but it is said to be now probable that some relaxation in the rules of the association with respect to the dates of entry will be made, so as to allow additional members of corps to those already entered to attend the meeting, and to permit corps not entered at all to put in an appearance at the camp, so that the experience and instruction in gunnery acquired at Shoeburyness may be made as widely useful as possible to the artillery volunteers of the kingdom. It is even hinted that the authorities, who have the matter in hand, are inclined to extend the time of meeting, which is fixed to commence on Monday, the 15th inst., and terminate with the distribution of prizes on Saturday, to a fortnight. The principal difference, however, in the programme of the meeting this year as compared with former years, will, it is believed, consist in the extra attention which will be paid to heavy gun drill, efficiency in which would fit the volunteers for fortification and coast defence duty in case of national emergency. The council of the association will this year be enabled to give an increased number of prizes, owing to the substantial assistance afforded them by the Government. Lieutenant-Colonel Chermide, R.A., will be commandant of the camp, and all the strictness of camp discipline will be maintained during the meeting at Shoeburyness.

STATE OF OUR LAND AND SEA FORCES.

THE result of the discussion on the defences of the country on Monday night, followed by the vote on the Supplementary Estimates on Tuesday, ought, we think, to allay the symptoms of panic which were beginning to appear. As to men, we have more soldiers under arms in the United Kingdom than we ever had before in time of peace. As to arms, we not only have 300,000 Sniders in store, but we have in that weapon a rifle as far superior to the chassépot as the chassépot is superior in the eyes of Frenchmen to the Prussian needle-gun. Our artillery is excellent; in fact, we have guns enough for 60,000 artillerymen. As for ammunition, we can make 1,500,000 projectiles for breechloaders in one week, and in a few weeks we could manufacture the whole amount expended by the British army at the siege of Sebastopol. We have, according to Mr. Cardwell, adequate though not excessive stores, it being impolitic to keep in hand enormous quantities of stores, which are likely to spoil, and of which in these times of transition and reconstruction the very pattern may change and so render them useless. It is true that the seventy-five battalions of infantry at home are weak, and that the companies in each regiment are below their proper force; but the policy of the Government has been to keep the cadres always in existence, together with their officers and non-commissioned officers, ready for immediate expansion as soon as an emergency arises. The Government, in a word, take credit to themselves for not neglecting to maintain all things which it requires time to provide, while they have relied on the liberality of Parliament and on the unparalleled resources of the country to supply the Army with such stores and necessities as do not require time for preparation. It was this conviction which enabled Mr. Cardwell to conclude both his speeches by declaring that, if we were on the eve of war, we might truly say that England never entered on a war finding her resources in men and munitions in a better state of preparation than at present.

While the Secretary for War is able to take so cheerful a view of our military resources, Mr. Childers is no less confident as to the efficient condition of our Navy. Whether we are to assume the attitude of a "secure" or of an "armed" neutrality—nay, even if we should be forced actually to take up arms by any contingency arising out of the Franco-Prussian war, we have, he says, at this moment a most efficient Navy. We have seven ships in the Channel fleet and nine in the reserve of that fleet: sixteen in all on the coasts of the United Kingdom. Besides these, we have a strong fleet in the Mediterranean, which in the course of this month will join the Channel fleet and manœuvre with it. That combined fleet would be of itself more than a match for the combined forces of any two nations that could be brought against it. In addition, we have a considerable number of ships in reserve, which will all be commissioned in the present year. It cannot but be satisfactory to the public, and some consolation for the additional burdens this untoward outbreak of war will entail, to learn that while the French navy numbers twenty-seven broadside and four special ironclads, carrying 283 guns, the English has forty ironclads—ten of which are special ships of the Monarch and Captain class—carrying 546 guns, each weighing 7 tons and upwards. In a short time these forty ships will be increased to forty-eight, carrying 602 guns—a naval force which, it is not too much to say, could sweep the seas of all the navies in the world. With regard to stores, the Navy, according to Mr. Childers, is well supplied. Our Reserves are "in admirable condition," and our Coastguard consists of men "altogether fit for service." All that is wanted to render this efficient peace navy still more formidable, and to carry it one step further into a state of "secure neutrality," is the liberality of Parliament. But, whether the House be liberal or not, Mr. Childers, as responsible for the present state of the Navy, considers that, even as it is, it is "in a most satisfactory state."—*Times*.

THE REV. SYDNEY SMITH ON WAR.—If three men were to have their legs and arms broken, and were to remain all night exposed to the inclemency of the weather, the whole country would be in a state of the most dreadful agitation. Look at the wholesale deaths of a field of battle, ten acres covered with dead, and half dead, and dying; and the shrieks and agonies of many thousand human beings! There is more of misery inflicted on mankind by one year of war than by all the civil persecutions and aggressions of a century. Yet it is a state into which the mass of mankind rush with the greatest avidity, hailing official murderers in scarlet, gold, and cocks' feathers, as the greatest and most glorious of human creatures. It is the business of every wise and good man to set himself against this passion for military glory, which really seems the most fruitful source of human misery.

THE MONTIGNY MITRAILLEUR.—As the Montigny (or "Christophi-Montigny") mitrailleuse is considered by good judges to be the best of the class, as it is very similar to the French engine, although superior to it in mechanical detail, and as the Montigny is now under trial by a special committee in this country, the following particulars may not be unacceptable. In appearance this mitrailleuse is very similar to an ordinary field-piece; but on looking at the muzzle, instead of a single hole forming the bore, you see thirty-seven holes, each of a calibre of about half an inch. These holes have the appearance of being bored into the solid gun; but in reality thirty-seven hexagonal steel barrels are fitted accurately together and soldered into a thin external wrought-iron tube. The piece has a movable breast-piece, worked by means of a lever, and containing a spiral spring and striker for each barrel. The cartridges are introduced into a movable steel breech-plate having thirty-seven holes in it. The plate is slipped into its place at the breech, which is then closed and secured by means of the lever. The thirty-seven cartridges can be fired independently, and as slowly as desired, or they can all be fired in one second. Replacing the empty plate with a filled one occupies five seconds, and a continuous fire at the rate of ten discharges per minute can be maintained, which is equal to 370 shots per minute; and, as each bullet weighs 600 grs., this gives something over 31 lb. of lead per minute. This fire can be delivered continuously upon the same spot, the piece having little or no recoil; or, by means of a horizontal or moving movement, the direction of the fire can be varied between each discharge or during the discharge itself, so as to spread it over a wider front like a fan. The piece is effective up to at least 1000 yards. The following are the details of this machine:—Weight, 400 lb.; No. of barrels, 37; calibre, .534 inch; rifling, Metford; bullet, hardened, weight 600 grains; charge of powder, 115 grains; cartridge, Boxer, or solid metallic, as may be preferred; rapidity of fire, ten rounds (equal to 370 shots a minute); mean absolute deviation at 500 yards, 31 in.; mean angle of elevation at 500 yards, 1 deg. 24 sec.; mean absolute deviation, 800 yards, 51 in.; mean angle of elevation at 800 yards, 2 deg. 5 sec.; mean angle of elevation at 1000 yards, 2 deg. 35 sec.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—The inquest arising out of the railway collision near Carlisle, on the 10th ult., was concluded on Tuesday, the jury returning a verdict of manslaughter against Joseph Rowell, who acted as driver to the North-Eastern goods-train, whose reckless conduct and incompetency they found were the cause of the accident. The jury were also of opinion that Robert Pattinson, the proper engine-driver, and Michael Shields, brakeman, were highly censurable—the former for not being at his post, and the other for acting under Rowell as if he were the legitimate engine-driver. The jury further censured the heads of departments for their lack of proper supervision over the servants of the company. A collision, attended with great destruction of property, happened on the Leicester and Derby branch of the Midland Railway, near the Syston and Peterborough junction, last Saturday evening. A goods-train was turned upon a wrong line of rails at the Peterborough junction, by which it came into violent collision with another goods-train. The tender of one train was crushed like paper, some trucks were turned over, and others thrown off the rails on to their side. One line was blocked up entirely; but, there being a convenient siding at hand, the passenger traffic was only delayed about three quarters of an hour. On Tuesday morning the London and North-Western mail from London, due at Manchester at three a.m., ran into a goods-train which had been started by mistake in advance from Crewe. Several waggons were smashed, as also a post-office van and carriage. The mail was delayed several hours. A post-office sorter was seriously injured. Early on Tuesday morning a dense fog prevailed over a large part of the north of England; and, in consequence of the signals being obscured, a collision occurred at Darlington, under circumstances precisely similar to that at Carlisle, and, but for the precaution of the driver, the results would probably have been as disastrous. Soon after midnight the mail from the north was due at the Darlington crossing, where there is a large mineral traffic proceeding wharft the main line during the night. The fog obscured the signals; and the engine-driver of the mail, thinking it not safe to cross this point at full speed, shut off his steam and proceeded very slowly. His precaution was well-timed, for on arriving at the crossing he heard the whistle of a train passing at right angles. The engines of the two trains met, and that of the mail was knocked off the line. The passengers were shaken and greatly alarmed; but, happily, no serious consequences ensued, beyond the detention of the mail for half an hour.

THE TRIAL AT BLOIS.

As we have already stated, amid the stir and excitement of the war the trial of the political prisoners at Blois has almost escaped attention. Some of the Paris papers have not thought it worth while to find room for a report of it, while those who do publish one banish it to some obscure corner. Yet the proceedings are really very interesting and amusing. On the 20th and 21st ult. the declarations of the prisoners were read over to them, and they were asked what they had to say. It is difficult to tell whether the Government still believes in this alleged conspiracy, which, it will be remembered, was suddenly discovered on the eve of the Plébiscite, and had its effect, as doubtless was intended, on the voting. But if the authorities are really in earnest, it would appear that the prisoners cannot bring themselves to regard it seriously. They openly joke with the Court about the whole affair being a clumsy counter-fact got up by the police. "Ah!" exclaimed Sappia, the Italian, "in my country we know something about plots, but here in France it is clear you have no idea of conspiring." When Felerin was charged by the president with being an enemy of the State, he admitted that in conversation he had declared himself against the Government of the day; "but," he added, "if it is criminal to be an opponent of the Government, the two or three millions of citizens who voted 'No' the other day should be here too." "Answer calmly," interposed the president, by no means calm himself. "I beg pardon," returned the prisoner, "I cannot be as calm as an Emperor." Clays, a Belgian, pleaded hard that as he had his umbrella with him when captured on the barricades he could not be supposed to have any mischief in view. He said he expostulated with the police when they took him, and told them who he was and his business in Paris, where he had come to collect some little debts. "Sir," they replied, "you will explain yourself before the commissary." "And now," he added, "for six months I've been explaining myself continually. Never did I meddle with politics. I love the Emperor, and bought his portrait for thirty francs, and a flag on the day of his fête for eight francs." The prisoner's counsel, M. Dumini, also waved the umbrella in the face of the Court. "The position of my client," he said, "is very interesting. Here is a man who goes to the barricades with an umbrella, and a blue umbrella—sign of peace. Such a man a conspirator! Impossible! If the jury doubt it, let them ask the Procureur-Général to produce that umbrella." Reference being made to Sappia's having said one night that aim should be taken not at the body of the Emperor, but at his head, he insisted in his explanations on going into a matter which evidently rather disturbed the President. Sappia: "When my friends came to see me in January we talked of a crowd of historical events, assassination of princes, Marie Stuart, and lots of other things. I said that nowadays political assassinations had become very difficult. Then something was said about the Emperor's famous cuirass." The President: "What has that to do with your defence?" Sappia: "Pardon. It is to prove that an assassination was impossible, and that I could never think of anything of the kind. Being at Genoa, one of my friends told me he had been summoned to the Tuileries. This was M. Christophe Muratori, director of prisons, at Genoa. He was the inventor of the cuirass. He tested it before me in a corner of the prison. He fired a pistol with his mouth against it, and the ball fell flattened. Next he fired at three bars of iron placed one above the other and resting on wood; the ball pierced them, lodging in the wood behind. Muratori went to France. He was said to have been heartily received at the Tuileries, and left his cuirass. Since then I have heard say that Napoleon III. constantly wore this corset. Hence I maintain the impossibility of assassination."

POLICE.

A NEW SWINDLING TRICK.—At Marylebone, on Tuesday, a case was brought before the magistrates which, it is expected, will lead to the discovery of an extensive system of frauds practised on tradesmen who are trying to dispose of their businesses. It is believed that, if publicity is given to the facts now stated in evidence, information will be forthcoming which may lead to the conviction of a gang of swindlers of whom one is now in custody. The prisoner, Esther Giles, eighteen, is charged, with being concerned, with two men not in custody, in obtaining £1 5s. by false pretences; and with stealing 8s. from Mr. Hayner, landlord of the Crown public-house, White Horse-street, Limehouse, and also with stealing 15s. from a parlour at 76, Salisbury-street, Lisson-grove. In this second case the prosecutrix was Miss Sheerer, a tobaccoist, who stated that on July 21 two men and the prisoner drove up to her shop in a well-appointed wagonette. One of the men, who called himself an agent, asked her what commission she would give him if he sold the business for her. The other man represented himself to be a person of independent means, and said he wished to purchase a business for his daughter, the prisoner. After some conversation the prosecutrix, who had not advertised her business, consented to dispose of it for £49. One of the men then wrote out a cheque for £19 as a deposit, drawn on the "Shoreditch branch of the London and County Bank." The other man demanded a commission of 1s. in the pound; but this the prosecutrix refused to give him until the cheque was cashed. The men then went away, in order to cash the cheque, and the prisoner, asking the prosecutrix for a bottle of gingerbeer, went into the back parlour, from which the prosecutrix afterwards found that 15s. had been taken. The prosecutrix learnt in a short time that the men had been to her sister, and endeavoured to obtain from her 15s. on the cheque, but that they had not succeeded in duping her. Detective Hammond, D division, said that the wagonette was hired in the Caledonian-road. The prosecutrix pointed out the two men with the prisoner in this wagonette in Drury-lane. When they saw him, the two men jumped out and ran away. He got possession of the wagonette and took the prisoner into custody. The prisoner was then remanded until Saturday.

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A BURGLAR CAUGHT IN THE ACT.—At Wandsworth Police Court, on Tuesday, Henry Collins, a well-dressed young man, who was described as a clerk, was re-examined on a charge of entering the house of Mr. John Partridge, a gentleman residing in Prospect-place, Wimbledon. A few days ago the prosecutor went out, leaving no one in the house, but locked the front door. During his absence the prisoner was seen to open the front door and enter the house. An alarm was raised, and the house was surrounded. The prisoner opened the front door, and he was held until a constable arrived. A skeleton key was found hanging behind the front door, and four other skeleton keys were found upon him. When the prosecutor reached home he found his house in the possession of the police. He also found that a cash-box had been taken from a drawer and the contents on the bed. A housebreaker's "jenny" was discovered in the house. Richard Kemp, warder at the Wandsworth House of Correction, was called to prove a former conviction. He said that, in 1866, the prisoner was convicted at the Central Criminal Court for housebreaking in the name of Arthur Godfrey, and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment. The prisoner was committed for trial.

A VIXEN.—On Wednesday Olivia Parker, eighteen, a nurserymaid, in the employment of Mr. H. Powell Cotton, of Springfield-villas, Queen's-road, Richmond, was summoned for assault and wilful damage. When the prisoner was brought up on a previous occasion she refused to give her name, and replied, when she was told that she might be committed to prison, that "she didn't care a bit." On the 23rd ult. Mr. Cotton's gardener reported that he had been assaulted by defendant, who threw a bucket of water over him. On being remonstrated with she said the gardener deserved it, and she would do it again. When her mistress said she would discharge her, she threw the crockery about and smashed about £2 worth of it, and threw some pieces at her master's head. Mrs. Cotton's hand was wounded in her endeavours to save her face from the attacks of the defendant. A lady in court said that if the defendant was discharged on payment of a small fine, she would take care of her, and send her home to her mother at Torquay. The Chairman cautioned the prisoner, who was then discharged.

THE NEW LORD JUSTICE OF APPEAL.—Mr. George Mellish, Q.C., who is to be the new Lord Justice of Appeal, in the room of the late Sir G. M. Giffard, was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple, June 9, 1848, and for many years has travelled the northern circuit. He received a silk gown in 1861, and has long enjoyed a large practice in the courts at Westminster Hall. The new Lord Justice is not the first occupant of that post who has been taken from the common law bar. One of the first Lords Justices appointed after the passing of the Act constituting the court was the late Lord Cranworth, who was for many years one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and was afterwards Lord Chancellor. More recently two common-law lawyers have occupied the woolsack—Lord Chelmsford and Lord Campbell. Lord Lyndhurst also had practised at the common-law bar.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.—At the Cambridgeshire Assizes, on Monday, Baron Channell presided, where the principal case was an action for breach of promise of marriage, brought by Ellen Bull, the daughter of a farmer at Ely, against the Rev. Henry Robinson, of St. John's College, Cambridge, who has been engaged in tuition at Manchester since 1861. The engagement commenced in 1864, and the letters were of the most ardent character up to 1867, when they suddenly changed on the part of the defendant, who subsequently offered the plaintiff £250 to release him. Mr. Metcalfe appeared for the plaintiff, and read a large number of letters, which showed the warmth of attachment which evidently existed between the parties at first. After the case had lasted all day, the jury considered for about a quarter of an hour, and returned a verdict—"Damages for plaintiff, £350."

THE ALBERT ASSURANCE COMPANY.—The affairs of the Albert Life Assurance Company came before Lord Justice James, on Monday, on a petition presented by a joint committee of some of the amalgamated companies praying for a reconstruction of the concern under a new management. His Lordship said that, unless the shareholders generally gave in their adhesion to the proposed arrangement, he did not see how he could compel them to do so. He suggested that meetings of the shareholders of the four principal companies interested should be held, and their assent asked to the reconstruction. This was agreed to.

ALLEGED PARRICIDE.—At the Shrewsbury Assizes, last Saturday, before Mr. Justice Mellor, Charles Wilson, nineteen, was charged with shooting with intent to murder his father, a physician, residing at Wem, in Shropshire. Mr. Matthews, Q.C., and Mr. Boughey appeared for the prosecution; and Mr. Henry James, Q.C., with Mr. Mottram, defended the prisoner. The case excited great interest throughout the county, and was of a peculiar description. It was proved that on the evening of April 13 Dr. Wilson was lying on the sofa in the dining-room asleep. He was awakened by a severe blow on his eye, as he at the time thought; and before he could recover himself he felt himself wounded on the head. He had, in fact, been shot with two bullets from a revolver: one had entered the eye, the other had lodged upon the skull. He saw no one, but the first thing he heard was his son, the prisoner, calling loudly for assistance. Another important witness was Miss Martha Wilson, the prisoner's sister. She proved that she and her brother were sitting up stairs, when, some ten minutes before the shots were fired, he left the room and went to the surgery, which is on the ground floor near the dining-room. Her attention was attracted by the first pistol-shot. She listened, and then, hearing another, she hastened to the head of the stairs, when she heard her brother calling, "Patty, Patty, papa has shot himself." These were the principal facts of the case; but further evidence was gone into to show that the wounds were inflicted by a pistol which belonged to Dr. Wilson, and to which a stranger would not have access, and also that the prisoner, in driving to Shrewsbury for a medical man, had purposely driven more slowly than was necessary. For the prisoner it was proved that he had been an affectionate son and brother; that there was

no motive whatever for the commission of the crime; and that it was possible for a stranger to have entered the house, and, finding the pistol, to have shot Dr. Wilson to avoid detection. Mr. James, in an exhaustive speech of nearly two hours' duration, strongly urged these views; and, after hearing the summing up of the Judge, the jury, at a late hour, returned a verdict of not guilty, a result which was received with loud applause.

FISH POISONING.—Mr. Robert Blackburn, proprietor of the Trows Weir Paper-Mills, near Exeter, has been fined by the Devon county magistrates 40s. and costs for allowing poisonous matter to flow into the River Exe to such an extent as to poison the fish. About ten days ago hundreds of fish were seen floating on the water below the weir. One of the river commissioners saw a white liquid flowing into the river from defendant's mill. He noticed that there were no dead fish above the weir (defendant's mill is just below the weir). It was therefore contended that the dead fish, among them salmon, had been poisoned by chemicals flowing into the river, after having been used in the manufacture of esparto grass into paper. Proceedings were taken under the 24th and 27th Vict., and this was the first local conviction under the Act. The defence was that it was impossible to get rid of the matter, which was now thrown into the river from defendant's mill, except by an expenditure greatly exceeding £100, the sum mentioned in the sixth section of the Act. It was moreover contended that deleterious matter from the gasworks, tanneries, &c., along the river might have poisoned the fish, and witnesses were called to prove that dead fish had been seen above the weir. The defendant will appeal, on the ground that the cost of effecting a remedy will exceed £1000.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JULY 29.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—A. KEEN, Plumstead, deputy assistant superintendent of stores at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.—M. TINKLER, Stamford, builder.
BANKRUPTS.—A. CHABOUD, Camden-street, Camden Town.—M. DE PERCEVAL, Palmerston-buildings, City, merchant.—W. BELLAMY, Birmingham, electroplater.—R. W. BROADBENT, Bradford, merchant.—P. D. GLEAVE, Liverpool, coachbuilder.—E. B. HODGES, Bristol, broker and furniture-dealer.—W. J. JACKSON, 35th Regiment.—J. T. JACKSON, Loughborough, corn and coal merchant.—G. RICHARDS, Bristol, hosiery and skin broker.—J. P. ROSE, Cardiff, engineer.—E. SIMPSON, Newcastle-on-Tyne, cart proprietor's clerk.—J. WALKER, Hereford.—J. WARDLE, Leeds, licensed victualler.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. KNOX, Glasgow, glazier.—WATSON and MAXINTOSH, Leith, house carpenters.—R. MACKIE, Knockendo, merchant.—J. SMELLIE, Glasgow, dairyman.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2.
BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—R. W. J. BURTON, Russell-square.—W. COTCHIN, Luton, floor-layer.—W. E. EAGLES, Kingsbury saddler.—L. FARRINGTON, Ilam Moss, farmer.—T. FAUCHEUX, Cavendish-square, marble-mason.—J. P. HELESTED, Water-lane, shipbroker.—J. HARRIS, Deptford Lower-road, carpenter.—J. PIGOT, Ivy-lane, licensed victualler.—C. WIGLEY, Lane in s-in-fields, leather-hose manufacturer.
BANKRUPTS.—J. D. MUNRO, Whitefriars, bootmaker.—J. MILES WALKER, Bow-road, draper.—J. WOODMAN, Southwark, licensed victualler.—G. WOOSTER, Horelydown, fishdealer.—W. APPLETON, Sheffield, saw manufacturer.—W. H. CROSBY, Scarborough, butcher.—G. HALLIDAY, King's Lynn, draper.—E. B. HODGES, Bristol, furniture-dealer.—S. LYONS, Liverpool, licensed victualler.—P. LOMAX, Bolton, manufacturer.—J. M'FARLAND, Bradford, commission agent.—N. LYONS, Birmingham, jeweller.—M. MORAN, Birmingham, egg and butter dealer.—G. NELSON, Sheffield, plumber.—W. RAY, Wellington, tailor.—A. REVELL, Bradford, piece-maker in—G. SMITH, East Acton, brickmaker.—J. H. SWIFT SMITH, Wolverhampton, artificial manure dealer.—W. WATSON, Widdowson, & WILLIAMS, Wolverhampton, cabinetmaker.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. WILSON, Newbain, farmer.—A. THOMPSON, Aberdeen, fisher.—H. MONS, or MORRIS, Edinburgh, millwale merchant.—J. SHEARER, Edinburgh, hosiery.—J. M'DUGALL, Glasgow, engineer.—E. MORRIS, Leith, draper.

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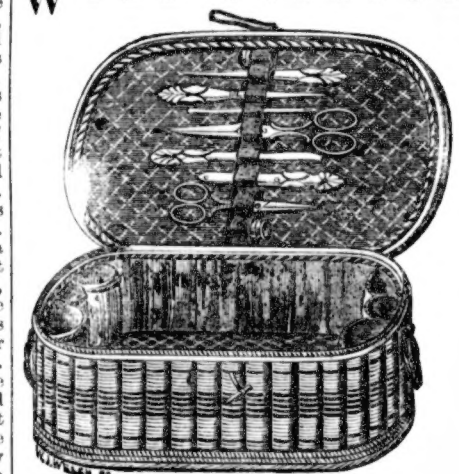
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